



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish
Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.

Fr. Jinse Jose, C.C.

Parish Secretary - Sinéad Carroll

Telephone: (01) 8353149

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am
12.30pm

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Facebook Follow Ashbourne Parish

*Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan
Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcaith,
Dunshaughlin and Skyrne*

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

3rd Sunday Lent A

8 March 2026



“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’” (John 4: 7)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 7th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Charlie and Tess Murphy; Stephen Taylor; Bobby Eager; Heberto Rios and Maureen Enright
Sunday 8th March	9am	John Farrell
Donaghmore	10am	Caroline Crean, Brookville, (Month's Mind); Ciarán Benville
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Anne Fanning, Tara Place (1st Anniversary)
Monday 9th Donaghmore	10am	Deceased members of the O'Connell and Mulholland Families
Tuesday 10th	10am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 11th	10am	Della Reilly
Thursday 12th	10am	Eileen Ward
Friday 13th	10am	People of the Parish
Saturday 14th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Ciaran Hennesly; Hugh Gallagher; Elizabeth Kane
Sunday 15th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Larry and Jack Kearns
Hospitality Parish Centre	11am	People of The Parish
	12.30pm	Charlie Fitzsimons

In today's Gospel, Jesus has a conversation at a well with a Samaritan woman. But it is no ordinary conversation. It is a wonderful drama about faith. Our Gospel readings on this and the next two Sunday's are taken from the Gospel of John. The author of the fourth gospel dramatises how an individual and a community come to believe in God. For many people, coming to believe in Jesus is a process. It develops over time. The scene in today's gospel reading portrays such a development. Every Sunday is a particular invitation for us to develop and grow our faith.

Sycamore - The Power of Prayer

This Wednesday evening a short video will be shown in the Parish Centre on the Christian understanding of Prayer. After the video there will be time for those present to talk about the importance of prayer. This is part of our parish hosting four Sycamore sessions during March. Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today.



Well done to those who received First Confession

Congratulations to the children attending St. Mary's parish school who received the sacrament of confession for the first time yesterday. The children were excellently prepared by their parents and teachers. In our parish First Confession takes place a year before Holy Communion and happens during Lent. Parents have taken the opportunity to request the sacrament for their child. The sacrament of reconciliation is about responding to God's love and being able to forgive and say sorry for our faults and failings. Parents are asked to continue bringing their child to confession at least once a year. Parents bringing their child to confession should consider going to confession themselves. It is as always voluntary but children learn from example in the home. We hope that all the children receiving the sacrament for the first time will always know and celebrate God's love.



Counting Those Who attend Sunday Mass

We are counting all those attending Mass this week-end. We thank the volunteers helping the Parish Pastoral Council with this initiative. The figures will reveal what Masses are best attended and help us get an idea of current mass attendance trends.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Thursday- 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

Children's Passports - My Lenten Journey



Each week children who have received a 'Lenten Passport' collect 'passport stamp stickers'. Sticker No.3 for the 3rd Week of Lent is now available. An Easter gift will be given to all those children who complete their passport and return it to the 11am Mass on Easter Sunday. Best Wishes to all the children taking on this prayer challenge and the Parish Pastoral Council thank the parents for supporting their children in their faith development. This is the last week that children preparing for 1st Confession and Holy Communion can receive a 'Passport'.

Stations of the Cross at Lent - Our Way to Jesus

Traditionally there are 14 Stations with a 15th sometimes added to mark the Resurrection of Jesus. The Stations of the Cross are a 15 step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on earth as a man. The 15 devotions, or Stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The Stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all are complete.



Our Schools are promoting Lent
The teachers and pupils of fourth class in our three Catholic primary Schools are learning about Lent and bringing Lent to life in their school environments with the Stations of the Cross. We thank all those helping with this initiative in our schools. As part of fourth class Living Lent the children from the different classes will attend our Lenten Masses on various Wednesday's of the season. St. Mary's attended last Wednesday and the Gaelscoil children are with us this week.

Bring Lent to Life. * Come along to watch and discuss Catholic faith on a Wednesday Evening * Attend the Bible Study Group on Tuesday evenings at 7pm * Partake in the daily 10am Mass from Monday to Friday* Commit to be present for an hour or part of an hour's Eucharistic Adoration each Thursday? * Pray the Stations of the Cross * Give to Trócaire * Fast on a Friday * Fast from Snacks or Drink that Consumes Us ...



Organising our Celebration of St. Patrick

St. Patrick's Day is next Tuesday week. Recently, Fr. Michael met with those who help him to organise our parish celebration. Mass in the Church of St. Patrick, Donaghmore, will be at 10am. Ashbourne Masses will be at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm. The 11am Mass on St. Patrick's day will once again be celebrated in Irish and English. The liturgical music and dance will express our Irish heritage. Parishioners are encouraged to wear shamrock on St. Patrick's morning, and children especially are encouraged to wear a little bit of green as a nod to our patron saint. Shamrock will be blessed at Masses as a reminder of how this Welsh man explained the Blessed Trinity to our forefathers. Our Parish Centre is being decorated for our National Feastday and will host hospitality and Irish music after the 11am Mass. We look forward to the celebration of St. Patrick in our parish.



A Few Photographs From Confirmation Day on Saturday February 28th 2026



Parish After School Graduation Mass



Fr. Jinse celebrated Mass on Tuesday in the Lady Chapel for the 37 children who completed the Parish After School Program following their Confirmation on Saturday week last. We thank Kay and their

teachers, Ms. Keogh and Mr O'Connor, for their work with the children and their parents. Congratulations to the children on receiving their certificates for attending the two years of the parish after school sacramental program.

Rite of Christian Initiation For Ashbourne Candidates

Fr. Michael attended the Cathedral Rite of Election in Mullingar last Saturday evening with Bishop Tom. Three Adults undergoing instruction in the Catholic faith in our parish are being prepared for the sacraments of initiation. We thank Brendan and Aine for their work and support to the candidates as they prepare to be welcomed in to the Church this Easter.



Second Collection Next Weekend



A second collection will be taken up at Masses next Sunday after Holy Communion. We thank the stewards for their help with this task. This collection will go towards the insurance premium paid by our parish. Our current insurance premium with Allianz costs €11,241.

Insurance is paid on parish related activities and all our buildings including Ashbourne's three heritage structures, namely, Ashbourne Church, Ashbourne Parish Centre and Donaghmore Church. Last Sunday's Collection Totals: Plate €1915; Shrines €1035; Development Fund €855. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our weekly parish collections. *Mile buiochas.*

Suaimhneas Shíoraí

We pray for the repose of. Elizabeth O'Dowd of Broadmeadow Green, whose funeral took place on Thursday in Ashbourne Church. Before her illness Elizabeth was a member of Ashbourne Church Choir. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

