

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER



4th Sunday of Easter C

Vocations Sunday

26 April 2026



The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out.

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin P.P.

Fr. Jinse Jose, C.C.

Parish Secretary - Sinéad Carroll

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

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*Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan Pastoral
Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcath,*

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 25th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Carmel Cawley; Jim and Kathleen Flanagan and deceased members of the Flanagan and Brennan families; Edmund and Jimmy O'Donnell
Sunday 26th	9am	Deceased members of the McLoughlin and Tierney families
Donaghmore	10am	Kathleen Tormey, Joey and Terry Tormey; Phyllis and Patrick Toomey
	11am	Matthew Geoghegan, Finglas (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Marie McManus and Michael Sheedy
Monday 27th	10am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 28th	10am	Patrick Redmond
Wednesday 29th	10am	Mass of Anointing of the Sick
Thursday 30th	10am	Eileen Fay
Friday 1st	10am	Parish List of The Dead
Saturday 2 May <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Crowning of Our Lady's Statue Francis Kingham, Brindley Park, (Month's Mind) Geraldine and Gerry O' Loughlin; Hugh Bartley; Michelle Donnelly; Herbert Ronan; James and Maureen Maloney
Sunday 3rd	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Kitty Skelly, The Ward (1st Anniversary)
	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	People of the Parish

The image of the shepherd with the flock of sheep around him is a common one in the bible. It was a sight Jesus often saw and is a sight often seen today in rural Israel and Palestine. Jesus uses this strong pastoral image to help us realise the important personal relationship He has with all of his followers.

'Do This In Memory' Weekend



This Sunday we welcome First Holy Communion children and families to their final 'Do This in Memory' Mass. The children have learnt the prayer called 'Lord, I am not worthy...' that we say just before Holy Communion. The boys and girls have also been learning for our Mass today how to receive Holy Communion. They can either receive directly on the tongue or they receive on the hand and they themselves place Jesus on their tongue. After a person receives they welcome Jesus in a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving. Before the final Blessing and Dismissal the children bring forward their art. We thank the parents of St. Declan's School who organised the Children's Space in Ashbourne Church and are leading the Prayer of the Faithful. The boys and girls are ready now to make their First Holy Communion, and we look forward to their full participation in Mass in the coming weeks.

Anointing of the Sick with Easter Oil


The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be part of the 10am Mass on Wednesday morning, the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena. Every two months our parish offers the opportunity for parishioners to receive this sacrament. This will be the first time the new oil of holy anointing will be used in our parish since it was blessed by Bishop Tom at the Chrism Mass. As followers of Jesus, we recall how Jesus was close to the sick, and as Christians, we always pray for those who are sick, infirm and in need of physical, mental or spiritual healing. If any person is sick and housebound and wants Holy Communion, or the Blessing of the Sick please contact the Parish Office.



REST IN

Peace

We pray for Thomas Cullen, Ashbourne, Joanne Boylan, Alderbrook, and Paul Millar, Brindley Park whose funeral Masses were celebrated during the week in Ashbourne Church. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm  Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm.



A Marian Procession This Weekend

A Marian Procession is being organised to take place at the 7pm Vigil Mass next Saturday evening. Weather permitting, it will take place in the Church Grounds at the end of Mass. The Rosary will be recited, hymns sung and the crowning of the statue of Our Lady in Ashbourne Church. The candles at Our Lady's Shrine will be in blue holders from next Friday to emphasise the Marian month.



Identification of a Grave in Donaghmore



The parish is trying to find out who is buried in a grave in Donaghmore Church Cemetery. The grave is a single grave next to the path, and was never registered with the parish, and no family has erected a headstone since the burial

took place. Is this a baby's grave? This grave is currently marked in the cemetery with a bollard and we would welcome any help in establishing who is buried in the plot. If you know anything, or can shed any light on who is buried in this plot, please contact the Parish Office.

Restoration Works in Ashbourne and Donaghmore

Works continue on the repair, restoration and repainting of the exterior of the six large windows in Ashbourne Church. Works will shortly begin on the enhancement of the entrance porch. The painting of the doors and porch area of the church will mean that for a number of weeks, for safety reasons, access to the church will be restricted to one main door. Signage will be in place as to which door is in use. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. In Donaghmore cleaning and painting work on the railings in front of the church and cemetery has begun. We thank parishioners for their co-operation and support of the Parish Development Fund which allows for these works to proceed.



After School Sacramental Preparation

Enrolment by parents of their children in after school parish sacramental classes for the next academic year (2026-2027) begins on Wednesday evening. Kay Churm, the parish co-ordinator, and our priests will hold a meeting for all interested parents in Ashbourne Church that evening at 7.30pm. For fourteen years the parish has run these classes and we are grateful to Kay, the teachers and parents who work with the priests in providing this opportunity to pass on the faith to children. Our parish is the largest provider of such classes in the country.



THE BLESSING OF GRAVES

There is just a month to the start of Cemetery Devotions in our Parish. Grave holders are asked to make sure that their graves are prepared for the Annual Blessing. Mass for those interred both in Ashbourne Church Cemetery and Killekland Cemetery will take place in Ashbourne Church on Saturday May 30th at 7pm. The blessing of the graves at the church will take place immediately afterwards at 7.45pm. The graves in Killekland Cemetery will be blessed at 8.15pm that same evening. The graves in Donaghmore will be blessed at 10.45am following the 10am Sunday morning Mass of May 31st. Devotions in Greenogue will follow on that same Sunday of the Bank Holiday weekend at 11.30am. St. Declan's Devotions happen on the Saturday evening after the Bank Holiday.

PRIESTS, BROTHERS, NUNS. THEY NEED US. WE NEED THEM.

Vocations Are Everybody's Business

The world day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated on this Sunday of Easter every year. Some people call Vocations Sunday *Good Shepherd Sunday*. Catholics are encouraged today especially to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the call to pastoral Ministry. We pray and support all good priests in ministry across our diocese and ask the Lord for a deepening of the fundamental vocation we all share in following Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Wishing To Become a Priest or Religious Sister ...

To become a priest or religious sister one should have a strong faith, and feel a calling from God to offer one's life to the building up of Christian community on earth. It takes several years of study, reflection and discernment for this to happen. If anyone feels that they might have a calling they should contact their local priest who will guide them in the right direction. Fr Tony Gonoude of Ballynacargy Parish is our Diocesan Vocations director. More details of vocations in the Diocese of Meath are found on the Diocesan website.

Priests and Religious of Yesterday and Today

Does any parishioner have a photo of Fr. Plunkett's grave in Killekland prior to the slab being put on the ground 49 years ago? The Celtic Cross headstone that once stood beside the Plunkett grave has broken up in recent years. Does anyone know where the broken stones went to? Was this cross part of Fr. Michael Plunkett's grave or was it belonging to someone else buried alongside our late parish priest? Brendan O Reilly is gathering information on vocations from the parish. Can anyone shed any light on any of the priests or religious who gave some of their life to this cause? Brendan will contact family members of the priests and religious if we are provided with contact information so that we can obtain details of their life for our parish history. Ideally we would like to gather some photographs and information on their ministry for the parish archive. If this is not done now, many of these lives will be forgotten on their home soil.



Second Collection Today for Vocations

There is a second collection at masses this Sunday after the distribution of Holy Communion. The collection goes towards students for the priesthood. Meath Diocese has six students in training at the moment. A man from Navan parish was ordained a priest last year and is due for appointment by our bishop. A Parish Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday evening next at 6pm in the Parish Centre. Members will continue to reflect on possible future uses for the Old National School. The issue of people parking all day in the church grounds and not covered by our insurance continues to be a concern. With pressure on other carparks in the town the parish carpark continues to come under pressure with increasing numbers leaving their cars for several hours and even overnight and for several days. The committee will look at the income received so far in 2026 and the forthcoming publication of the income and expenditure for 2025 will also be discussed. Last Sunday's collection total amounts were as follows: Plate €1480; Shrines €860; Development Fund €1045. Gratitude is expressed to all those who regularly generously give to Ashbourne-Donaghmore parish. *Mile buíochas.*

