



NUAIGHT LITIR DON PHARÓISTE; CILL DHÉAGLÁIN AGUS DOMHNACH MÓR

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

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

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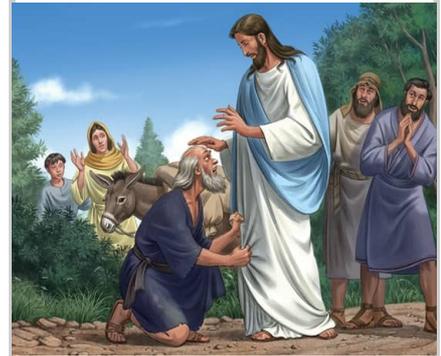
Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcath, Dunshaughlin and Skyrne

Email: ashbournedonagmoreparish@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Lent A

Laetare Sunday

15 March 2026



Jesus restores sight to the blind man.

(John 9:1)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday March 14th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Ciarán Hennelly; Hugh Gallagher; Elizabeth Kane; Orla Dowling
Sunday 15th March	9am	Mass for the Intentions Received in our Petition Box
Donaghmore	10am	Larry and Jack Kearns
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Thanksgiving Mass for All Mothers
	12.30pm	Charlie Fitzsimons
Monday 16th	10am	Margaret Clark
Tuesday 17th Donaghmore Celebrating St. Patrick	9am 10am 11am 12.30pm	People of the Parish Church Feast Day Mass Andy and Mary Thynne; Maureen and William Cooney; Niamh Daltún and Odhrán O'Domhnaill People of the Parish
Wednesday 18th	10am	Mary Dunne
Thursday 19th	10am	Ann Mc Larnan
Friday 20th	10am	Christopher and Annie Kavanagh
Saturday 21st Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Michael Cullen, Drumcondra, (Month's Mind) Jim Clancy; Breda Cahill; Thomas, Patrick and Daniel Goldrick; Jimmy Cuddy
Sunday 22nd	9am	Kit Gillett
Donaghmore	10am	People of the Parish
Hospitality Parish Centre	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	People of the Parish



The fourth Sunday of Lent has traditionally been referred to as 'Laetare Sunday', from the first Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon meaning 'Rejoice'. As the priest wears pink vestments, the church reminds us to refresh ourselves with joy in the midst of our Lenten penance as we look forward to the happiness of Easter. Even though, we fix our minds this season on the suffering and death of our Lord, we remember too that the resurrection has already taken place.

Gratitude on Mothers's Day

On this Mother's Day, the fourth Sunday of Lent annually, we thank God for mothers. Here is *A Prayer for Mother's Day* from the 'Catholic Family Book of Prayers'.



Thank you Lord, for all mothers. On this day let us think of them; Whether they are with us or gone to their heavenly reward. We think of their kindness, their compassion, their care for us and all their unconditional love. We pray that you will watch over them and support them in the joys and struggles of their daily lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Families Preparing For First Holy Communion



We welcome to Mass this weekend the families preparing for Holy Communion. This is the fifth of six special Masses in preparation for the sacrament. The children have been learning about the Communion Rite at Mass and in particular the two prayers the 'Our Father' and the 'Lamb of God'. They have learnt the accompanying actions of the Lord's Prayer and the ritual of making the Sign of Peace. We thank the parents

from St. Mary's primary school who lead the Prayer of the Faithful at our Sunday Masses and who created the Children's Space in our Church. A child friendly prayer card with the Our Father is given as a gift to the children for parents to use with their child.



Sticker No.4 for the Children's Lenten Passports are available at the baptismal font after Mass today. The passports support children on their journey towards 1st Confession and Holy Communion.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm
Confessions Saturdays 5pm - 6pm



Rosary Monday to Friday at 10.30am

Getting More From the Bible...



Have you ever wanted to ask or understand something about the Bible? Would you like to relate your life more to the Word of God? Do you think still the Bible is not something for Catholics? If so, come along on Wednesday evening to the next Lenten

conversation. The topic is the importance of understanding and reflecting on the Bible. Each Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Parish Centre parishioners watch a short, engaging and thought provoking video from the Sycamore Faith Development Program. Questions and Discussion follow with refreshments served as part of a 75 minute informal gathering to help and support growth in faith.

Mass Attendance Statistics



Last Sunday members of the Parish Pastoral Council counted every person who attended Mass in Ashbourne and Donaghmore. In total there were 984 parishioners. The following is a breakdown of attendance across our Masses. Vigil 191; 9am 194; Donaghmore 117; 11am 258;

12.30pm 224. During the week an average of 87 parishioners attend Mass. We thank all those who did the count and above all we thank each person behind these numbers.

Ashbourne Church News

Our photo shows Ashbourne Church on Monday morning with the seat repaired beside the statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Thanks to Michael McGroarty for fixing the seat and for being a Parish DIY volunteer. The sacrament of 1st Confession takes place in the church on Saturday next from 4pm to 6pm for the children prepared by the families and teachers from the Parish After School Sacramental Program and Gaelscoil na Cille. We thank all parents working hard at passing on faith to those in their care.



Ideas for Living Lent 2026 as Holy Week is Planned

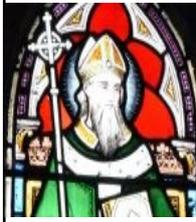
We encourage people to visit the church over Lent and to set aside time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, attend Mass and do the Stations of the Cross. Learn off the Parish Prayer for Lent and join others in bringing Lent to Life. Perhaps consider giving some of your time or talent to your parish or a person in need. Our priests and members of the Parish Pastoral Council are planning Holy Week and will meet on Wednesday evening at 8.30pm. Have you any new or creative ideas on how we should celebrate these sacred days in Jesus' life? If you have, please let the Parish Office know. Next Sunday, in an old tradition, as part of preparation for the Triduum, our statues are covered.

Solemnity of St Joseph

On Thursday Catholics celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, patron of work and fatherhood. A statue of 'Sleeping St Joseph' made famous by the late Pope Francis will be on display in Ashbourne Church. It depicts St Joseph asleep as it was very often in his dreams that Joseph was guided by God. Joseph was wholeheartedly obedient to God.... in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage. The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment in calling him a "just" man, living his life by faith, seeking to do good in every concrete circumstance of life.



Lá Fhéile Pádraig 2026



We look forward to the celebration of St. Patrick on Tuesday. There is no better way to celebrate St. Patrick than to attend Mass in his honour. **Mass in the Church of St. Patrick, Donaghmore, will be at 10am. Ashbourne Masses will be at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm.** Beidh an t-Aifreann ag a 11 as Gaeilge agus Béarla. Beidh bileoga Aifrinn

ar fáil lena freagaí as Gaeilge. People are encouraged to wear shamrock to Mass 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 young Welsh man explained the Blessed Trinity. We thank those who are organising and participating in these liturgies. Members of the Caroline Fitzsimons Academy of Irish Dancing will be with us in the Church and Parish Centre. We thank Aine and her volunteers who are organising the festivities in the Parish Centre.

Guímis beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir.

The Church of St. Patrick in 2026

Since 2021, people across Ireland have listened, prayed, and shared their hopes for the Church in this ancient land. From these synodal voices, seven priorities emerged: belonging, healing, shared responsibility, family, faith formation, the role of women, and young people. These priorities come from You the People of God in Ireland. At this time the Irish Church is reflecting on these seven topics and preparing for a final Synodal gathering in October. You can discover more by reading the working document by scanning the QR code or looking up www.synod.ie/ Baptised and Sent'.



2nd Collection at Mass Today

A second collection will be taken up at Masses this 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 the three of Ashbourne's protected structures namely, Ashbourne Church, Ashbourne Parish Centre and Donaghmore Church. Last Sunday's Collection Totals: Plate €1535 Shrines €910; Development Fund €895. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish collections. *Míle buíochas.*

Committee Wanted For Donaghmore Church Cemetery

As Fr. Michael announced at Mass in Donaghmore last Sunday he wants to put together a committee to help him with matters to do with Donaghmore Cemetery. The cemetery needs more attention and now is an opportunity to see what we can do to improve this important space where loved ones are laid to rest. Since we formed a cemetery committee in Ashbourne last year, for its jubilee, the cemetery has improved significantly and more people are tending to their graves. Donaghmore Church Cemetery has been full since 2020 and there is now perhaps more than ever a need for ongoing maintenance, and care to ensure longevity. Parts of the paths are decaying, ivy from the old cemetery is encroaching, some graves are showing signs of neglect, investment is needed in the years to come in the walls and railings. If you have a family member buried in the grounds we ask you to consider becoming a member of the committee. If interested in serving on this committee for a period of three years, or feel you can help out in any way, please ring or email the Parish Office or talk to Fr. Michael.

