



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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

Fifth Sunday of Year A

8th February 2026



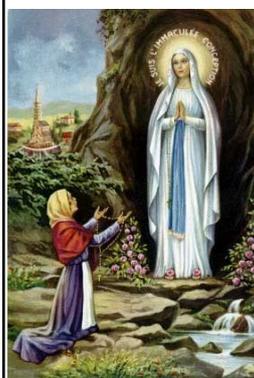
**‘You are
the Light of the World and
the Salt of the Earth...’**

(Mt 5: 13 -14)

Mass Intentions

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| Saturday 7th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i> | 7pm | John Wilson, Johnswood Drive (Month’s Mind); And his mother Ita Wilson; Kevin and Eilish Bartley; Finbarr Daly; John Fox; Tony Bartley |
| Sunday 8th | 9am | People of the Parish |
| Donaghmore | 10am | William Henry |
| Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass | 11am | People of the Parish |
| | 12.30pm | Martin Moore |
| Monday 9th | 10am | Tom Hollywood |
| Tuesday 10th | 10am | Terry Walsh |
| Wednesday 11th World Day of Prayer For The Sick | 10am | Margaret Mintern Anointing of the Sick |
| Thursday 12th | 10am | Eddie Hughes and Muriel Byrne |
| Friday 13th | 10am | People of the Parish |
| Saturday 14th St. Valentine’s Day | 7pm | John Finnegan, Castle Crescent (1st Anniversary) also remembering his grandad John Curran; Ciarán and Diarmuid Gibney; Joe Finn; PJ Lonergan |
| Sunday 15th | 9am | Maureen, James and William Enright |
| Donaghmore | 10am | Paddy Moran |
| Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass | 11am | People of the Parish |
| | 12.30pm | Peter McBride |

Anointing on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes



The feast day of our Lady of Lourdes is kept every year as the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. The sacrament of Holy Anointing of the Sick and Infirm will take place as part of Mass on Wednesday morning next. The parish statue of our Lady of Lourdes will be placed in front of the altar on that day. A relic of Padre Pio, one of the saints who accompanies many who are sick, will also be available in the church for veneration.

Reflecting on this day, Pope Leo XIV, in his message for the 34th World Day of the Sick writes: “People of faith and goodwill need to take time to acknowledge the needs and suffering of those around them and be moved by love and compassion to offer others concrete help.”



‘To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Sick, we raise our trusting gaze and our prayer; may her maternal compassion, manifested as she stood beside her dying Son on the Cross, accompany and sustain the faith and the hope of every sick and suffering person on the journey of healing for the wounds of body and spirit.’

Distribution of New Parish Envelope Boxes



**Offering
Envelopes**

New boxes of envelopes have been delivered to the homes of parishioners who use them. Thank you to all those who helped to distribute them. If, for any reason, you have not got this years box, please call in to the Parish Office. If you are new to our faith community, or wish to use this means of supporting us, please contact the office. If you haven’t previously contributed to the parish through the envelopes, would you be willing to begin? We have spare boxes. Thanks to all who support our parish.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

Just 10 Days To The Start of Lent



Lent will begin in ten days time. If you have any suggestions for Lent 2026 or can help us plan the season please let Fr. Michael or Fr. Jinse know. The Parish Pastoral Council are meeting on Wednesday of this week to finalise a parish action plan for this season and in next weekend's

newsletter the Lenten schedule will be announced.

Wednesday week is Ash Wednesday. There will be Masses to mark the beginning of Lent at 10am and 7pm. At these Masses parishioners will have the option of receiving ashes on their foreheads or taking home ash to apply it themselves. The priests of the parish will also be available with ashes in Ashbourne Church from 2.30 to 4pm. Ash Wednesday is a day of Prayer, Fast and Abstinence. The sacrament of confession will also be available as people embark on this opportunity of spiritual renewal.

Trocáire Boxes will be available at the end of all Masses next Sunday. If anyone would like to become a Trocáire ambassador - that is a volunteer in our parish supporting Trocáire- we would be glad to hear from you. Trocáire ambassadors support the priests of the parish in communicating the work of Trocáire in the developing world.



First Confession Guidelines



1st Confession takes place a year before Holy Communion in our parish. As in other parishes the sacrament is administered during Lent. At the moment parents have the opportunity to request the sacrament for their child. Request Forms have been available from our Catholic Schools and were to be returned by last Friday. 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 practise the prayers for the sacrament with their children and to talk to them about sin being a time when one does not show love to God or neighbour. Parents bringing their child to confession should also 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.

Do This In Memory February Mass

Next Sunday's Mass is No.4 of the Do This In Memory Weekends. First Holy Communion Families are asked to reflect on the Consecration at Mass. The children are learning big words to do with Mass such as 'tabernacle', 'genuflection', 'consecration' and 'red sanctuary lamp'. Parents are encouraged to help their child with the learning of these words and the Prayers to do with the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They should also practise how to genuflect with their child. The Parish Pastoral Council will be sending out the parental newsletter and our priests making a video to connect with this preparation. We thank the parents of the after school program for their work on the Children's Board in Ashbourne Church.



'Accord' Marriage Care

Accord is the catholic marriage support service agency in Ireland. Trained facilitators provide pre marriage courses and on-going marriage support to couples. They also provide counselling to couples seeking help. The Meath diocesan office of Accord is in Navan and their website is www.accord.ie



The Story Behind St. Valentine



As St. Valentine's Day is celebrated it is worth reflecting on the man behind the name. Valentine was a priest in Rome. According to the Roman martyrology, Valentine died for the faith, 14th February 269, under Claudius II, the Emperor at the time. The martyrology says: "At Rome, on the Flaminian Way, the heavenly birthday of the blessed martyr

Valentine, a priest. After performing many miraculous cures and giving much wise counsel he was beaten and beheaded under Claudius Caesar." The Roman Emperor Claudius II forbade the young men to marry because he thought single men were better soldiers. Valentine secretly married young couples and was arrested and put in prison. The threat of death could not induce Valentine to renounce his faith. While in prison he prayed for and healed the blind daughter of a judge, Asterius, who with his family converted to Christianity and suffered martyrdom with Valentine. In 498AD Pope Gelasius named February 14th St. Valentine's Day. A Basilica was built in his honour near the cemetery of St. Hippolytus where his remains were found. In the nineteenth century, a relic of the saint was given to the Carmelite Church in Whitefriar Street and married couples celebrating significant anniversaries visit this Irish shrine of St. Valentine to renew their vows. The crocus, which flowers about this time of year, is also known as St. Valentine's flower.

Getting Married in the Coming Months?

Any couple getting married in the church in the coming months are asked to make sure that they do their pre marriage course and the church paperwork in plenty of time. This is to ensure that all is organised and the couple can focus on planning their ceremony in the church with their priest in the months coming up to the wedding. In recent weeks Fr. Michael and Fr. Jinse updated the parish wedding guidelines to support couples in our parish getting married. Our priests meet brides and grooms to be every Saturday afternoon in the parish office.



Second Collection At Mass Next Sunday

There is a 2nd Collection next weekend for Candlemas. This is the Priests Spring Offering Collection. Last Sunday's Collection were Plate €1495; Shrines €885; Development Fund €1040. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish and we thank all those making their annual offering as the parish financial year concludes. Mile buiochas.



Why not do the Camino this Year?

Fr. Derek Darby, Meath Diocesan Pastoral Co-ordinator, is leading a Holy Week pilgrim walk on the final stretch of the Camino de Santiago. An average walk of 20km, flights, hotel accommodation and coach transfers are in the price of €1,255 pps. For more information on this pilgrimage or any of the camino pilgrim trails contact Marian Pilgrimages (01) 8788159.

