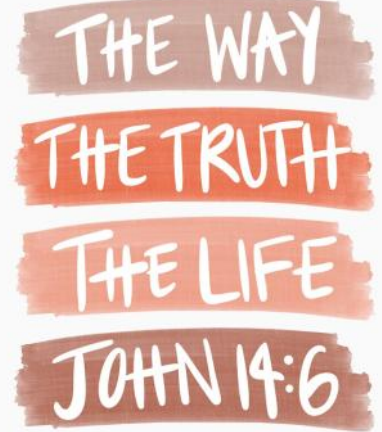


ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER



5th Sunday Easter A
2 May 2026



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

ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

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

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 2nd May <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Francis Kingham, Brindley Park, (Month's Mind) Geraldine and Gerry O' Loughlin; Hugh Bartley; Michelle Donnelly; Herbert Ronan; James and Maureen Maloney; Eileen Reilly Crowning of Our Lady's Statue
Sunday 3rd May	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Kitty Skelly, The Ward (1st Anniversary) Blessing of the Countryside
	11am	Mass for the Intentions and Intercessions in Parish Petition Box
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 4th	10am	Joe O'Brien
Tuesday 5th	10am	Madge Finn
Wednesday 6th	10am	Deceased Members of Ashbourne Dramatic Society
Thursday 7th	10am	Willie and Eileen Fitzsimons
Friday 8th	10am	Kay Mintern
Saturday 9th May <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	1st Holy Communion Masses 10am, 11:30am, 2pm Tommy and Anne Marie Scully
Sunday 10th	9am	John Brennan
Donaghmore	10am	Fr Tom Rafferty
	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	John Hourihan, Tudor Grove, (1st Anniversary)

Today's Gospel is very popular at funerals. It is one of Jesus' farewell discourses at the end of his earthly life. Jesus is talking to the disciples about his leaving them by way of the cross, but assuring them that this is not the end of the story. He says to them that he is 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'.

May Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's Statue



This evening (Saturday 2nd) the 7pm Mass will conclude with the Rosary, a Marian Procession and the Crowning of Our Lady's Statue in Ashbourne Church. Weather permitting, the procession will take place in the Church Grounds. The candles at Our Lady's Shrine in Ashbourne Church for the month of May are in blue holders to emphasise May as the Marian month. The children in Senior Infants in our parish schools are being introduced to the Hail Mary, and on the last weekend of May will join us at Sunday Mass to lead us in praying this great prayer of our Church.

First Holy Communion Weekends

The sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated in our parish in the coming weeks. This begins next weekend with the children from St. Declan's Primary School receiving the Holy Communion in three ceremonies. The following weekend children from St Mary's Primary School will celebrate the reception of the Sacrament. On the weekend of May 23rd the children prepared from Gaelscoil na Cille and from the After School Parish Sacramental Programme will receive the Eucharist. As always we encourage parents to bring their children to Sunday Mass and to pray the prayers with their child at this important time. We look forward to these happy and family centred occasions in our parish.



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



Enhancement Works on Ashbourne Church Porch



Works on the enhancement of the entrance porch of Ashbourne Church began on Tuesday. For the coming weeks access to the church will be restricted to one main door on the library side. On

Sundays and other occasions when there is a large congregation the two fire doors, next to the statue of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady will be used for entry and exit. Parishioners are asked to take their time exiting as it may take slightly longer than usual after Masses. Signage is now in place to indicate the doors in use at any given time. We apologise for any inconvenience these works may cause.

Donaghmore Church Railings and New Cemetery Paths



This year our Parish Finance Committee have costed and prioritised the improvement of the footpaths and railings at Donaghmore Church and Cemetery. An insurance health and safety inspection highlighted that the paths in Donaghmore Church Cemetery had become old, worn, and a trip hazard. Prices from several contractors were received by the Parish Finance Committee and a contractor was approved just before Easter. The cost of the ground works is €12,000. The contractor started the works on Tuesday and finished on Wednesday. Fr Michael asks all families with loved ones buried in the cemetery to support this important project financially. These works will ensure the longevity of the cemetery, and make it safer and more user friendly in the years ahead.

Donaghmore Cemetery Clean Up Day

Tuesday May 19th @ 7pm



A community cemetery clean up hour will take place in Donaghmore Cemetery on Tuesday evening May 19th from 7 to 8pm. Parishioners with family members buried in Donaghmore are asked to help with this clean up. If you have garden tools that might assist with this clean up we would be grateful if you bring them along on the night. Out of respect for our deceased loved ones, as well as upgrading the paths, it is important to keep all areas of our cemetery clean. We hope that families will support this initiative. If the weather is wet on the night in question the date will be rescheduled. Fr. Michael is grateful to the parishioners who so far volunteered to help look after the cemetery going forward. Cemetery devotions in Donaghmore Cemetery will take place on the Sunday morning of May 31st.

Identification of a Grave in Donaghmore

The parish continues to try to find out who is buried in a particular 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.



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting on Wednesday



The May Parish Pastoral Council meeting will take place on Wednesday evening next at 7pm in the Parish Centre. The organisation of the parish celebrations of Pentecost, Corpus Christi and the Marian Month of May will be discussed and advanced. There

will also be more work done on the organisation of the summer pilgrimage to Faughart, Drogheda and the ecclesiastical city of Armagh. Members will reflect on work done so far, and initial engagement was made with other Pastoral Councils in the Dunshaughlin Pastoral Area.

Enrolment in the After School Parish Program

Enrolment in next year's after school program has begun. For anyone not at last Wednesday night's meeting forms are available from our priests after Sunday Masses. The program provides instruction for catholic children in



non catholic schools in Ashbourne. The after school classes will begin next September. Once forms are completed they should be returned to the Parish Office before the last day of May. Places are allocated on a first return first place basis. Baptismal certs for children being enrolled for the first time and not baptised in Ashbourne Parish are required with the application. Children who have completed Year One of the religion classes must register for Year Two. We thank all the parents who attended last Wednesday evening's meeting which launched the program for the coming year. Our parish is the largest provider of these classes in the country.

Gratitude for Your Support to Our Parish



We thank parishioners for their financial support of the Parish Development Fund which allows for the enhancement works currently taking place to proceed. There is considerable outlay happening at this time. It is important that we look after the patrimony of the sacred

buildings in our community for ourselves and the generations to come. Last Sunday's Collection total amounts were as follows: Plate €1855; Shrines €905; Development Fund €705. The Vocations Collection came to €2100. Gratitude is expressed to all those who generously give to Asbourne-Donaghmore parish. *Mile buíochas.*

Rest in Peace

We pray for Jerry (Jerome) Brennan of Deerpark and Rosemary Hedderman from the Ward whose funeral Masses took place in our parish churches during the week. We extend sympathy to their families and pray for all of our faithful departed. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



Blessing of the Countryside after Donaghmore Mass



We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Bank Holiday Weekend and a blessed month of May. It is many people's favourite month. There will be a short 'Blessing of the Countryside' after Mass this Sunday morning in Donaghmore.

We continue to thank God for the world in which we live, our farmers, and all who care for the land.

Mary, Queen of the May, pray for us.