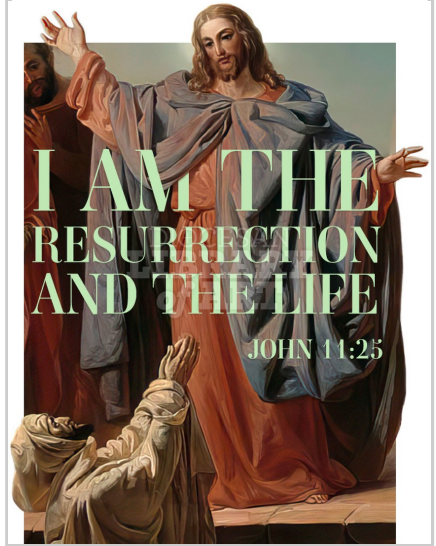


ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER



Fifth Sunday of Lent A

22 March 2026



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

Fr. Jinse Jose, C.C.
Parish Secretary - Sinéad Carroll

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9am - 12.30pm

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

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Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday March 21st Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Michael Cullen, Drumcondra, (Month's Mind) Jim Clancy; Breda Cahill; Thomas, Patrick and Daniel Goldrick; Jimmy Cuddy
Sunday 22nd March	9am	Kit Gillett
Donaghmore	10am	People of the Parish
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 23rd	10am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 24th	10am	Josephine Kelly
Wednesday 25th	10am	Carmel Campbell
Thursday 26th	10am	Joan Stevens
Friday 27th	10am	Thomas Fitzsimons
Saturday 28th Anniversaries Occurring Mass Palm Sunday	7pm	Andy Carroll, Killelland, (1st Anniversary); Anne and Steve Keane; John Landers and deceased of the Landers Family; Jimmy Stewart; James, Ellen and Gerard McGrath
Sunday 29th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Patrick and Elizabeth Murray
Hospitality Parish Centre	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Brian Brady



Congratulations to the children attending the Parish After School Sacramental Program and Gaelscoil na Cille who received the sacrament of Confession for the first time yesterday. We thank all involved in their preparation. The children prepared by the families and parents of St. Declan's will receive the Sacrament next Saturday from 4 to 6pm in Ashbourne Church.

Passiontide Begins Today



Traditionally, these next two weeks before Easter are called Passiontide. It is a time when statues are covered in purple cloth and attention is focussed on the immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. We encourage all our parishioners to intensify their engagement with Lent, and to prioritise participation in Holy Week when we will gather as a faith community to relive the events of Palm Sunday, and begin what is called 'An tSeachtain Mhór'.

Success of Children's Lenten Passport

Over 150 Lenten passports have been issued to children to support them on their journey towards Easter. This Sunday we are numbering the passports as the children get their sticker so that we know how many gifts to have ready on Easter Sunday. Sticker No.5 for the Children's Lenten Passports are available at the baptismal font after Mass today.



School Children Praying the Stations of the Cross





As the schools enter into the last week of this term our priests are making their Lenten visitation to the schools. The boys and girls in fourth class in our three primary schools are holding a Lenten Prayer Service based on the Stations of the Cross. We thank the children and their teachers for their work, and we encourage everyone to use the stations in our churches as a means of prayer and meditative reflection.

Growing in Faith Initiatives This Week

This Wednesday evening at 7pm the final *Sycamore* gathering will take place. The video in the Parish Centre, and the discussion to follow, will focus on our Care for Creation and The Path to Salvation. On Tuesday evening at 7pm Fr. Michael will lead reflection on next Sunday's gospel. As part of ongoing reflection on their ministry our Readers and Eucharistic ministers are invited to next Thursday night's Passover Seder re-enactment.



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

 Rosary Monday to Friday at 10.30am

Passover Re-enactment Meal



Exactly a week before Holy Thursday, the parish will re-enact a celebration of the Jewish Passover Seder. All Eucharistic Ministers and Readers in Ashbourne and Donaghmore are invited to the celebration taking place at 7pm next Thursday in the Parish Centre. We can cater for 40 people so if you are interested please let the Parish Office know before it closes on Tuesday. This celebration was last held in Ashbourne in 2023 and it connects the Old Testament Exodus to the New Testament Eucharist with Christ as the ultimate Sacrifice.

Next Sunday Holy Week Begins

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. The centre of our Mass leaflets will have the Passion printed across two pages as we begin this most important week in the Christian calendar. Palm will be blessed at all Masses as we recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, a few days before he was arrested and killed. Parishioners are encouraged to do all they can to participate fully in the Holy Week liturgies in both our churches. We thank everyone who is helping to organise our ceremonies.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Masses in Ashbourne and Donaghmore Churches are at the normal Sunday times. On Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Last supper is at 8pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Good Friday Veneration of the Cross is in Donaghmore Church at 10am. Outdoor Way of the Cross will take place at 12 noon in Ashbourne Church grounds. Veneration of the Cross and Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is at 3pm in Ashbourne Church. Both our Churches will be open throughout Good Friday for people to visit and reflect on Jesus death. There is a Táize Prayer Around the Cross at 8pm in the Parish Centre that evening. Our Holy Saturday Vigil Mass is at 8pm. Easter Sunday Mass will celebrate what the resurrection means and are at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm in Ashbourne Church. Donaghmore Church will have Easter morning Mass at 10am.

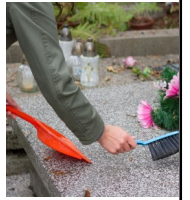
Photos of St. Patrick's Day



Following on from last Tuesday, Ashbourne Choral Ensemble and the Dance Academy have a charity concert called Féile in Dalgan Park today at 3pm (C15AY2Y). We thank them and wish them all the best this afternoon.

Keeping our Cemeteries Tidy

Now that Spring is here, and we have an extra hour of daylight, our parish asks all those with plots in our parish cemeteries to tend to their graves. Please responsibly dispose of old flower pots, withered Christmas wreaths and burnt candle ends. Fr. Michael is looking to form a committee to help with Donaghmore Cemetery.



At this time 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 honour their sacred resting place by becoming a committee member. The parish is grateful to all the families and volunteers who have helped and continue to help maintain both parish cemeteries to a high standard.

Marking Nine Months to Christmas



The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on Wednesday. On this day we recall the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, and how the archangel revealed to her that she was to give birth to God's son. This feast is celebrated nine months out from Jesus' birth. On this day we pray especially for all expectant mothers. Catholics pray the Angelus daily at 12 noon and 6pm. It is based on the mysteries of the Annunciation and Visitation. The bell in Ashbourne Church rings for the angelus each day. We thank the Grattan family for their contribution down the years for the Angelus bell.

THE SEASON OF Lent



Praying the Way of the Cross During Passiontide

Traditionally, these two weeks before Easter, when attention is focussed on the immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum, people of faith spend more time praying the Stations of the Cross. Parishioners are encouraged to follow and ponder the Way of the Cross, and to meditate on the central mysteries of Christ's life. In our prayers we remember Margaret Andrews of Castle Close, whose funeral took place on Thursday in Ashbourne Church. *Suaimhneas Shíoraí*

Fasting From Waste During Lent

This Lent, embrace sustainability by making small, thoughtful changes in how you consume. Reduce waste by choosing reusable items, buying only what you need, do a little research and try supporting local and ethical products. Fast from excess—whether it's food, shopping, or energy use—and find joy in simplicity. Caring for God's creation is an act of faith, and Lent is a perfect time to live with greater gratitude and responsibility.

Giving In a Generous Spirit

On Wednesday an online Donation Button was placed on our Parish Webcam Page. This facility is part of Church Services responding to the needs of parishes. We thank Mary on the Parish Finance Committee for her work in setting this up. Last Sunday's Parish Collection Totals: Plate €1400; Shrines €1085; Development Fund €855; Second Collection for Insurance €1945. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish collections. Just a reminder that from Holy Thursday we will welcome the return of your Trócaire Boxes in support of their work in Rwanda. *Míle buíochas.*