



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

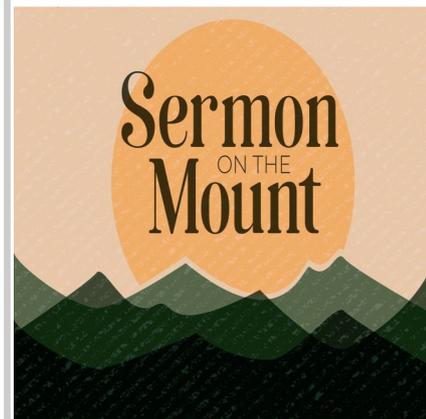
Priests of the Parish
Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.
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*Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan
Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcaith,
Dunshauglin and Skyrne*

6th Sunday of Year A

Temperance Sunday

15 February 2026



Matthew 5: 1-12

Mass Intentions

Saturday 14th February <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	John Finnegan, Castle Crescent (1st Anniversary) and his grandad John Curran; Ciarán and Diarmuid Gibney; Joe Finn; PJ Lonergan
Sunday 15th February <i>Temperance Sunday</i>	9am	Maureen, James and William Enright
Donaghmore	10am	Paddy Moran
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Joe Finnigan, Broadmeadow Green (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Peter McBride
Monday 16th February	10am	Denis and Mary Sullivan
Tuesday 17th February <i>Feast of the Holy Face</i>	10am	Olive Curran
Ash Wednesday 18th February	10am 7pm	Philip O'Connor Will & Eileen Mitchell
Thursday 19th February	10am	Annie and Joseph Seagrave
Friday 20th February	10am	Day of Solidarity and Prayer for Survivors of Abuse
Saturday 21st February	7pm	Rita Stewart, Bachelors Walk, (Month's Mind) Michéal Battersby; George Wilton; Harry Cullen; Mary Fanning; Peg Hardy; Patrick Gorman
Sunday 22nd February	9am	Mass of Thanksgiving
1st Sunday of Lent Donaghmore <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	10am	Des Cronnelly, Baltrasna, (1st Anniversary) his wife Julie; Niamh Carson; Archie
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Charles Bobbett, Fleenstown (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	People of The Parish

Do This In Memory - Mass No. 4

We welcome families with children for 1st Holy Communion to Mass this weekend. This is the fourth of six 'Do This In Memory' preparatory masses. This month the children have been learning "big words" namely the 'sanctuary', 'tabernacle' and 'consecration'. At every Mass we relive the Last Supper believing that the bread and wine will become the body and blood of Jesus. In the miracle of the Eucharist Jesus becomes present to us in a special way. Jesus is kept in the tabernacle, and the children are learning how to genuflect, to the Blessed Sacrament. All of us can increase our attention to the Eucharist and our example to children as we enter and leave our church seat. We thank the parents from the Parish After School Sacramental Program for doing the Children's Sacred Space in the Church, and for their involvement in the Prayer of the Faithful at Masses this Sunday.



Ash Wednesday and the Beginning of Lent

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. There are Masses to mark the beginning of Lent at 10am and 7pm. People will have the option of receiving ashes on their foreheads or taking home a little ash to apply it themselves. The priests of the parish will also be available with ashes in Ashbourne Church from 2.30 pm to 4.30pm on Wednesday. Lent calls us to repent of our sins and to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the poor as ways of giving ourselves to God. Wednesday afternoon is also an opportunity for the sacrament of confession as parishioners embark on the Lenten opportunity of spiritual renewal. Why not get Lent off to a great start by making a good confession as you receive the ash and start the Lenten journey?



THREE PILLARS OF LENT



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm

Weekly Confessions Saturday 5pm to 6pm



Confirmation is on Saturday Week



The two ceremonies for Confirmation on Saturday week are at 11am and 2pm. 186 Children have been prepared for the Sacrament. With the numbers receiving the sacrament, space is limited in our church and each family has half a seat. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first seated basis. Candidates and families have been asked to follow all of the normal guidelines around keeping the ceremony prayerful. Parents and children are asked to extend a warm welcome to Bishop Tom as he visits our parish for his annual visit. Confessions for the children and their families will take place in Ashbourne Church from 7pm to 8.30pm on Thursday evening 26th February.

'Confirming Our Children' - Final Mass

Next Sunday, the last one before Confirmation Day, the Confirmation children have their final preparatory Mass. For this Mass the children bring the card that they have prepared for the person they have chosen as their sponsor. We ask the boys and girls to bring to Mass next Sunday Confirmation badges, chain and crosses, Holy Spirit pins and medals that they will wear on their Confirmation day. These will be blessed at these Masses. Our parish will write to parents of children for the sacrament of Confirmation during the week. The letter encourages parents to continue to prepare their child for the sacrament. Parents and children are asked to talk about the pressures around alcohol and drugs that they will be exposed to in the coming years, and whether they wish to take the confirmation pledge until they are 18 years of age. We wish the children and their families all the very best and look forward to this parish celebration.



Living and Embracing Lent 2026

Followers of Jesus are encouraged to observe Lent by taking on to give up something that is not good for us or choosing to do something positive to grow in faith. In our parish for Lent there will be a weekly Bible Study Group on Tuesday evenings and for the Wednesday evenings of March the Parish Pastoral Council are running the Sycamore programme. For children the parish is introducing a Lenten Passport to encourage attendance at Mass. With all parishes in our Pastoral Area on the First Friday of Lent we will pray also for those suffering from abuse. During the season of Lent we encourage people to pray and reflect on the Stations of the Cross.



Once again this year 'Walk with Me' Lenten booklets will be available to parishioners. The booklets help people who go to daily Mass to reflect on the Lenten readings. They are also a good aid for those who wish to come closer to God's word during Lent. The booklets will be available after Mass on Shrove Tuesday morning and a donation of €1.50 will cover the cost of print and postage.

Trocáire Boxes are available in both our churches at the end of all Masses this Sunday. This year's fundraising is for their work in Rwanda. Trocáire helps vulnerable families in this African country to rebuild homes lost to climate change. Please take a box and as a gesture of almsgiving, use it as a way to support those in dire need in the developing world.



Marking the Foundation of the New Church

Next Sunday is the feast day on which the foundation stone of Ashbourne Church extension was laid by Bishop John McCormack. This event happened on 22 February 1981 and in attendance with parishioners was the priest at that time, Fr. Fintan Cassidy who was curate at the time. A photograph of the old church before the extension was added will be on display in the church. For one hundred and eleven years Ashbourne was part of Ratoath parish and Donaghmore was part of Curraghera. In 1984 the diocese established Ashbourne and Donaghmore as a new parish in its own right. The 9am Mass next Sunday in Ashbourne will be one of thanksgiving for our church.



Electrical and Lighting Upgrade of Ashbourne Church



On Monday and Tuesday last all of the light fittings were changed in the interior and exterior of Ashbourne Church. It was a long and protracted process getting fittings for the lights that were installed in 2014. Rather than change the long lights in the church we had to get bulbs made to suit our fittings and buy bulbs that will be able to be changed in the coming years. We now also have the timers fixed for what remains of the winter lighting up hours. We thank people for their understanding and patience with the tradesmen involved.

Damage to the Stone Seat in the Church Grounds

On Thursday, February 5th at 12.45pm, a car drove onto the grass in the Church grounds and knocked down the memorial seat next the statue of our Lady causing severe damage. Did anyone see this who did this? Again, we repeat that the carpark in the church grounds is a private carpark for church use only. People are reminded that parking in the church grounds is only for those attending our church or on parish business as per the terms of our insurance. We have details of the car involved but we hope that the driver would come forward and take responsibility for the damage caused.



Preparing Our Church For Lent

Have you time to give to your faith community on Shrove Tuesday morning? A group of parishioners will meet in the church at 11am on Tuesday morning to Hoover, dust and clean the church in time for the new season of Lent. They will also decorate our Church for Lent. If you have time and are willing to work please do come along. We appreciate the work of all our volunteers in keeping our parish active and strong.



Second Collection This Weekend

There are two collections taken up at Masses this Sunday. The first collection is the regular Plate Collection for the day to day running of our parish. The second after communion is one of six annual Offertory Collections that supports a basic salary for the priests of our parish. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €1990; Shrines €955; Development Fund €1040. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Mile buíochas.



We pray for the repose of one of our oldest parishioners, Caroline Crean of Brookville. Her funeral Mass took place in Ashbourne Church on Friday. We extend sympathy to her family and pray that she and all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

