

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER



6th Sunday Easter A

10 May 2026



Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin P.P.

Fr. Jinse Jose, C.C.

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

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 9th May	7pm	Tommy and Anne Marie Scully <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>
Sunday 10th May	9am	John Brennan
Donaghmore	10am	Fr Tom Rafferty
	11am	Mass For Pope Leo on the 1st Anniversary of His Election
	12.30pm	John Hourihan, Tudor Grove, (1st Anniversary)
Monday 11th	10am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 12th	10am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 13th	10am	People of the Parish
Thursday 14th	10am	People of the Parish
Friday 15th	10am	Feast of St Dympna
Saturday 16th May	10am 11.30am 2.30pm 7pm	1st Holy Communion Masses for St. Mary's School Wedding of Matthew Douglas and Emanuele dos Santos Silva Richard Donnelly, Cluain Ri (1st Anniversary); Bridget O'Donnell, Stephen Ledwith
Shared Mass Intentions		
Sunday 17th	9am	James and Christina Kearns
Donaghmore	10am	Joan Deegan
	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Joanne Boylan, Alderbrook, (Month's Mind)

Today's Gospel is a statement of the profound love that Jesus and his Father have for all of us. We are loved so much that they will never abandon us. No matter what difficulties we face, no matter what problems we encounter, we are not alone. We are not orphans. We don't have to be afraid. We are children of a loving God. God is Love and wants us to love.

God Bless You on Your First Holy Communion



Congratulations to all the children who received their First Holy Communion yesterday. We welcome them as *guests of honour* today as they receive Holy Communion for the first time on a Sunday - the Lord's Day. Thank you for joining us at Mass today with your families. We rejoice as you receive the Body of Christ and pray that they will always know Jesus as your special friend. Next weekend the children prepared for the sacrament attending St. Mary's Catholic School will receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. May these celebrations be a time of grace, joy, and deep encounter with the Risen Lord.


Parish Enhancement Works

Works on the enhancement of the entrance porch of Ashbourne Church continues with access to the Church temporarily restricted to one main door on the library side. The painting of the iron wrought gates and railings at Donaghmore Church is now complete. The painting of the Church window sills, doors, soffits and fascias is also currently taking place. Thanks to Richard Farrelly for ensuring the works on the footpaths in Donaghmore Church Cemetery were completed before Cemetery Devotions. These works ensure the longevity of parish property and protect the Christian heritage of which we are custodians.



Rosary for the Marian Month of May will be held at Our Lady's Statue in the Church Grounds on Wednesday next, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, at 7.30pm. All Welcome.



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

Pentecost Sunday 2026



Pentecost

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council are currently organising a parish celebration for Pentecost that displays the diversity of cultures and backgrounds that our parishioners come from. The 11am Sunday Mass on Sunday May 24th will have the Prayer of the Faithful in different languages. We would like any parishioner who speaks Filipino or Portuguese to contact the Parish Office as we would like these languages to be included in the liturgy. We thank all those organising this year's Pentecost celebration.

Meath Diocesan Retreat For Priests

You are asked to pray for Fr. Michael and the 75 priests of the Diocese of Meath as they go on their annual retreat this week. May the Lord be with them as they reflect on their vocation as priests, and seek the Lord's guidance in their ministry. Fr. Jinse will go on his retreat with priests of his congregation in early June. All priests, as part of their ongoing faith development, must partake in an annual retreat.



Cemetery Devotions 2026



The annual prayers for the faithful departed interred in the cemeteries of Ashbourne and Donaghmore are about to take place. Mass for those interred in Ashbourne Church Cemetery will

take place in Ashbourne Church on Saturday May 30th at 7pm followed by the blessing of the graves immediately afterwards at 7.45pm. Killelland graves will be blessed at 8.30pm that same evening. The graves in Donaghmore will be blessed on Sunday morning after the 10am Mass of the Bank Holiday weekend on May 31st with Greenogue devotions taking place at 11.30am. On the following Saturday evening of June 6th the 7pm Vigil Mass will be offered for those interred in St. Declan's, with the blessing of the graves afterwards at 8.15pm.

Cemeteries are special places for bereaved families and for Christians they are held as sacred grounds, as they hold the earthly remains of our brothers and sisters in Christ, awaiting the resurrection.

All those with plots and niches in our parish cemeteries are reminded to bring home old flower pots, withered wreaths and burnt candle ends. At times these are thrown to one side, dumped in a hedge or left for others to take away. This is disrespectful to people who own other plots, and to parish property. We are grateful to all the families and volunteers who help maintain our parish cemeteries to a high standard, but must remain vigilant to ensure dumping is kept at bay.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Donaghmore Cemetery Clean Up on May 19th

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 Church Cemetery are asked to join this activity. If you have garden tools that might assist with this clean up we would be grateful if you bring them along.



1st Anniversary of Pope Leo XIV's Election

This weekend we mark the first anniversary of the election of Pope Leo XIV, Robert Francis Prevost, OSA. His first words as Pope on the balcony of St Peter's - "Peace be with you!" -



echoed the greeting of the Risen Christ and set the tone for his ministry: a peace that is "disarming, humble and persevering," rooted not in power but in the crucified and risen Lord. At a time of escalating conflict in the Middle East and beyond, his message is especially timely. Pope Leo reminds us that true peace is God's gift for every family, nation, and heart. Unity lies at the centre of Pope Leo's vision. His motto, "In illo uno unum" - "In the one (Christ) we are one" - expresses his desire for a Church and world healed of ideological division. He calls us to walk together, to build bridges through dialogue, compassion, and encounter, and to trust that we are held in God's hands. His vision is also deeply missionary and synodal; a church with "open arms, open to everyone...especially those who suffer", close to the poor,

migrants, and those on the margins, listening and serving in love. As a parish, we pray for Pope Leo XIV. May his Petrine ministry be a sign of peace and unity for the Church and the world, and may we live his call to be bridge-builders in our own community.



St Dymphna - May 15th Feastday

Dymphna was born in Ireland in the seventh century into a royal family. Her father was a wealthy pagan lord and mother a devout Christian. When she was fourteen, Dymphna consecrated herself to Christ and took a vow of chastity. Her father suffered from psychiatric illness which meant Dymphna had to flee for protection to the town of Geel in Belgium. She built a hospital in Geel for those with mental illness to alleviate the condition at an early stage, and to support and befriend those with mental frailty. Her story was written down in France in 1349 and 'Lily of EIRE' became patron of people living with mental illness. One of the stained glass windows in the old part of Ashbourne Church depicts St. Dymphna in red and white clothing and holding a book of the gospels, and a palm branch testifying to her martyrdom due to fomicide. Do take a look at the window as we celebrate her feast on Friday. Does anyone know why this saint was chosen for our Church? Everytime you see this window remember her story and pray in thanksgiving for your mental health and wellbeing.



Sustaining and Supporting Our Parish

We thank parishioners for their financial support of the Parish which allows for the enhancement works currently taking place to proceed. Last Sunday's Collection total amounts were as follows: Plate €1330; Shrines €1045; Development Fund €1020. *Mile buíochas.*



Prayer and Sympathy

The funeral of Liam Tierney of Huntsgrove took place on Tuesday last, while the funeral of Pat Heneghan of Brindley Park Road took place on Wednesday. We extend sympathy to their families members and pray for them as they begin the journey of coming to terms with painful loss. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

