

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

7th Sunday Easter A
Ascension of the Lord
17 May 2026



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, Ardcath,*



Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 16th May <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Richard Donnelly, Cluain Rí (1st Anniversary); Bridget O'Donnell; Stephen Ledwith; James Dignam
Sunday 17th May	9am	James and Christina Kearns
Donaghmore	10am	Joan Deegan
	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Joanne Boylan, Alderbrook, (Month's Mind)
Monday 18th	10am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 19th	10am	Thomas Conroy
Wednesday 20th	10am	Phyllis Peakin
Thursday 21st	10am	Austin and Charlotte McGuire and deceased members of McGuire family
Friday 22nd	10am	Sammy Macari
Saturday 23rd May <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	10am 11.30am 7pm	Gaelscoil - 1st Holy Communion After School Sacramental Program John McManus, Noreen O Leary; Séan Byrne; Catherine Guinnane; Al O Connell; Paddy and Margaret Daly, Geraldine McNamara.
Sunday 24th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Joan Milner
Pentecost Parish Celebration	11am	Teresa Morgan, Bullstown (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Pauline Loughran and deceased of the Thorne and Loughran Families



Today is the Feast of the Ascension. It is a mystery of faith often forgotten or not talked about. The Ascension marks the risen Christ's return to heaven, and his departing wish for us to bring the Christian message

to the ends of the earth. As we mark Ascension day the Catholic Church celebrates World Communications Day. We have a message to communicate to the world. We are tasked in the Ascension mandate with communicating the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth. On this, the 60th anniversary of World Communications Day, Pope Leo in his message emphasises the importance of preserving human voices and faces in this new age of Artificial Intelligence.


CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to all the children from St. Mary's School 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. Next weekend the children prepared for the sacrament attending Gaelscoil na Cille and the After School Sacramental Program will receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. These will be the last of our Holy Communion weekends. Please keep all these 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.



Outdoor Rosary for the Marian Month of May will take place in Milltown Meadows on Wednesday next, at 7.30pm. All Welcome.



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

Discovery of Church Time Capsule

On Wednesday April 15th during porch works a time capsule was discovered in the large black foundation stone. The information in the time capsule goes back to the laying of the foundation stone. Inside a red velvet pouch, which remains in mint condition after 45 years, were eight sheets of printed computer paper with details of those parishioners who contributed towards the construction of the Church extension. Also, within the pouch was a list of the builders and tradesmen who worked on site. It is great to get this information and to record this important part of faith history that was almost forgotten and lost forever. With works on the enhancement of the entrance porch access to the church is 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, can also be used for entry and exit. We apologise for any inconvenience these works cause.



Pentecost Sunday 2026



Pentecost

Next Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, the role of the Holy Spirit, which happens fifty days after Easter Sunday. Once again this year the Parish Pastoral Council is organising a parish celebration for Pentecost that displays the diversity of cultures and backgrounds that our parishioners come from. The 11am Sunday Mass will have the Prayer of the Faithful in different languages. We would like any parishioner who speaks Filipino or Nigerian to contact the Parish Office as we would like these languages to be included in the liturgy. Hospitality in the Parish Centre will comprise of tastes and foods from countries around the world from which our parishioners hail. We thank all those organising this year's Pentecost celebration.



At the vigil Mass of Pentecost in the Cathedral of Christ the King in Mullingar on Saturday evening next, May 23rd, Colla Torres from Kilderry Hall will be confirmed by Bishop Tom Deenihan. Colla has completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in our parish as delivered by Brendan and Aine O Reilly. At this Mass in the Cathedral, which Fr. Michael, our parish priest, will concelebrate, five teenagers who took part in 'Junior RCIA' will also be confirmed by Bishop Tom. We thank Kay and the after school teachers for their work in preparing these teenagers. Parishioners are asked to pray for these parishioners being received fully into the Church in the coming days.

After School Sacramental Classes 2026- 2027

Enrolment for the parish after school classes next September continues during this month. Registration forms with details of the classes next year, and all that is involved for parents, are available from our priests after our Sunday Masses. Completed forms and payment for the first term should be returned to the Parish Office before the last day of May.



Donaghmore Cemetery Clean Up on Tuesday Evening

A community cemetery clean up hour will take place in Donaghmore Church Cemetery on Tuesday evening next from 7 to 8pm. Those with family members buried in this 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. If the weather is wet, we will meet at the same time a week later.



Ashbourne Church Cemetery Committee Meeting



Ashbourne Church Cemetery Committee will meet on Tuesday evening next at 8.15pm. The committee recently put down weedkiller in their attempt to address the issue of the invasive weed 'Mare's Tale'. Parishioners are asked not to pull this particular weed as this causes it to multiply! The committee have organised the cleaning and washing of the back wall of the cemetery and hope to finish the painting of the crucifix. Once again, they are organising a collection at cemetery devotions. Each family is asked to please donate towards the cemetery upkeep where our loved ones are buried. The committee was formed last year and helps parishioners ensure good practice regarding the maintenance and upkeep of this church cemetery.

Annual Cemetery Devotion Times

Saturday, 30th May, 7pm Mass in Ashbourne Church followed by Blessing of the Graves in Ashbourne Church Cemetery at 7.45pm and Killelland at 8.30pm

Sunday, 31st May, 10am Mass with blessing of graves in Donaghmore (10.30am) and Greenogue (11.15am)

Saturday, 6th June, 7pm Mass in Ashbourne Church followed by Blessing of the graves in St. Declan's at 8.15pm.

Sustaining and Supporting Our Parish



The Annual General Meeting of Killelland Trust takes place on Tuesday evening next at 6pm in the Parish Centre. The Killelland Trust Board manage six acres of land left by the late Mary Mooney for the benefit of Ashbourne Parish. The Board of Directors follow all government directives and legislation with regards to Irish Charitable Trusts. This trust is separate to St. Finian's Diocesan Trust in which our churches, cemeteries, Parish Centre and Parochial Houses are vested. In recent days our parish forwarded the monies collected in Ashbourne and Donaghmore as part of this year's Trócaire Lenten Campaign. In total, €4632 was collected for this good cause. We thank all those who contributed, and help our church and parish to show solidarity with 'the poorest of the poor' in the developing world. We thank parishioners for their financial support of the Parish which allows for the enhancement works currently taking place in Ashbourne and Donaghmore. Last Sunday's Collection total amounts were as follows: Plate €1335; Shrines €835; Development Fund €940. *Mile buíochas.*



Praying For The Deceased

We pray for Robert Murphy of The Hawthorns, whose Funeral Mass took place in Ashbourne Church on Tuesday. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

