



# ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

## The Baptism of the Lord

11 January 2026

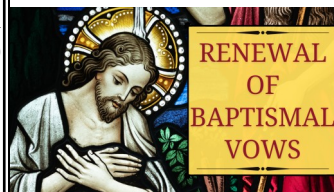


**“This is my Son,  
the Beloved;  
my favour rests on him’.**  
(Mt 3:17)

### Mass Times and Mass Intentions

Saturday 10th January	7pm	Joan Rushe, Brindley Park Green (Month's Mind)  Deceased members of Boylan and Garvey Families; Maureen and James Moloney; James and Mary Russell; Patrick Simpson; John, Elizabeth & Imelda Glynn; Michael & Eileen Reilly, Ciaran Hennelly
		<i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>
Sunday 11th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Richard Whyte
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Séan Conway
	12.30pm	John Scanlon
Monday 12th	10am	Gemma Coughlan
Tuesday 13th	10am	Tom Daly
Wednesday 14th	10am	People of the Parish
Thursday 15th	10am	Paul Donnelly
Friday 16th	10am	Jack Byrne
Saturday 17th	7pm	Gemma Coughlan; Ann Grimes, Mary and John Farrell
		<i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>
Sunday 18th	9am	Anne Brennan
Donaghmore	10am	Christo, Kitty, Ollie and Deceased of Kavanagh Family
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Séan Bruton, The Rath (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Christopher Tormey

### Renewal of Baptism Promises



This Sunday we mark the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. All four Gospels record Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist which heralds the start of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus was thirty years of age when baptised. At Mass on this feast we renew our baptismal promises and we are sprinkled with Holy Water as we pledge our allegiance to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our baptism sets us apart, identifies us with the Almighty and calls us into union with God.

### Holy Water in our Parish

Holy Water is available in the metal container outside the sacristy door, next the cemetery in Ashbourne Church grounds. Parishioners are welcome to take Holy Water from this container when the church grounds are open. Alternatively anyone can ask one of our priests to bless water for them. Holy Water is an important sacramental and reminds us of the 'seal of baptism'. Parishioners are reminded to bless themselves properly and with 'intentionality' when entering and leaving the church. As the domestic church, parents and grandparents are asked to teach and explain this important ritual to the next generation.



### The First Christians of the New Year



As part of our parish celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Iyunade Mary Adams is baptised at today's 11am Sunday Mass. The first 2026 celebration of the sacrament of baptism took place on Saturday last with the calling down of the Holy Spirit upon Aoibh Beth Craven. We congratulate both families and wish them all the best in passing on the great gift of faith. Last year in Ashbourne Parish there were 78 baptisms (38 girls and 40 boys). 93 baptisms took place in 2024; 101 in 2023/ 93 in 2022/45 in 2021/ 95 in 2020 and 157 in 2019.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

## Postures During Mass

### Why Sunday Matters

An invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass



"The Sunday Mass is at the heart of our faith - the source and summit of all we believe." Last autumn the Irish Bishop's brought out a pastoral letter for parish groups and parishioners called 'Why Sunday Matters'.

The Parish Pastoral Council in Ashbourne is currently reading and reflecting on this document as it ties in with one of its four objectives, to support ways of enhancing our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. It decided to work on small ways to enhance participation at the Sunday Eucharist and to publish some of the material on the bishop's website.

For the following three weeks of January in this newsletter we will explain the postures we adopt at Mass. In writing and publishing these words, the aim of the Parish Pastoral Council, is to encourage reflection and discussion on how we pray the Mass with our bodies, hearts and minds with as much 'intentionality' as possible.

Our postures enable us to participate more fully in the Eucharist and help us express our prayer in different ways at different moments. The way we sit, stand and kneel help us to pray together as one family in Christ.



Sometimes we stand, sit or kneel without knowledge of the reasoning behind the postures. Next week we explain what we do in standing at Mass, the week after we look at why and when we sit and on the third weekend we will look at what we do when we kneel.

## Parish Baptism Guidelines



Baptisms take place every Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm in Ashbourne Church. To emphasise and strengthen the connection of baptism with the gathering of the faith community parents introduce themselves and their new born baby to Fr. Michael or Fr. Jinse after attending Sunday Mass. Parents publicly express their desire to bring their child up in the faith by having their child baptised. The parents

on meeting the priest receive a 'Baptism Request Form' and are provided with information on preparing for the celebration of the sacrament. The Baptism Request Form is then completed and returned to the Parish Office. Up to four baptisms take place on any given Saturday afternoon. At least two weeks advance notice is expected and once the form is processed the Parish Secretary confirms the baby's baptism date. From today, the Feast of Jesus' Baptism 2026, a new Baptism Sheet is given to parents. We thank Claire Marie and the Parish Pastoral Council for their work on this project.

## Confirming Our Children Mass Number 3

With Confirmation in Ashbourne now a little more than six weeks away the enrolled children are busy learning about the sacrament and the role of the Holy Spirit. At this time the children are doing projects on the saints name that they are taking. At Mass next Sunday they will present the project each of them has done on their selected saint.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts ...*



## Christmas Offerings 2025

In recent days the 2025 Christmas Offerings were counted. We are glad to say that the offerings received at Christmas this year came to €16,085. The monies collected at Christmas is one of six that take place that support two priests living and ministering in our parish. Fr. Michael and Fr. Jinse are very appreciative of the monies received that make up the number two account in our parish.

CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING

## Pope Leo's Prayer Intention For The Month of January

*For Prayer with the Word of God*



Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

## Second Collection at Mass next Sunday

After Holy Communion next Sunday (January 18th) there will be a second collection for our parish contribution towards the Diocesan Cess. The money



Second Collections

collected across parishes in the Diocese of Meath will support the work of our Church welfare agencies including Accord Catholic Marriage Care, the National Child Safeguarding Bord, and the Council for Immigrant and Emigrant Support. This is one of the twelve second collections that take place annually in our Parish. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were as follows Plate €1085; Shrines €1030; Development Fund €1650. We thank all parishioners for their support and the stewards and counters who help with the various collections in our churches. Your help is greatly appreciated. *Mile buíochas.*

## Epiphany Announcement of Easter 2026



*Know, dear brothers and sisters, that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.*

In the Year of Our Lord 2026

On the 18th day of February Ash Wednesday falls, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 5th day of April we will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 17th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 24th day of June, the feast of Pentecost.

On the 7th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the 29th day of November, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.



*The Great  
Escape  
'Flight into Egypt'  
by Eugene Girardet  
(1853 - 1907)*