



# ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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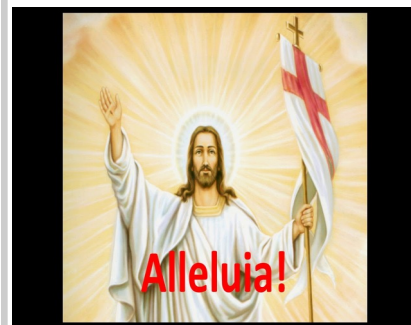
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*Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan  
 Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcaith,  
 Dunshaughlin and Skyrne*

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## Easter Sunday A

5 April 2026

### The Lord's Resurrection

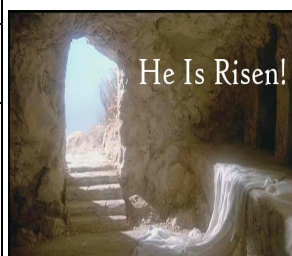


*This day was made  
 by the Lord:  
 we rejoice  
 and are glad.*

### Easter Octave Mass Times and Intentions

<b>Holy Saturday April 4th</b> Easter Vigil	8pm	First Parish Mass Celebrating the Lord's Resurrection
<b>Easter Sunday 5th</b>	9am	Easter Dawn Mass with Blessing of Food is offered for Michael Kelly Margaret Docherty and Maureen Weir
Donaghmore	10am	Mass is for the People of the Parish with an Easter Baptism
	11am	Cora and Christopher Lowe
	12.30pm	
<b>Easter Monday</b>	10am	Maura Kearney
<b>Easter Tuesday</b>	10am	Catherine Conroy
<b>Easter Wednesday</b>	10am	Madeline Curtin
<b>Easter Thursday</b>	10am	People of the Parish
<b>Easter Friday</b>	10am	People of the Parish
<b>Easter Saturday 11th</b> <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	John Clarke and deceased of the Clarke family; Mary and Andy Roche; William McGrath; Patrick and Nora Muldoon; Lorraine and Kenneth Gray and Deceased Family Members; Patrick and Doreen McGrath and Deceased Family Members; Stephen and Angela Daly; Mary Hemeryck
<b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b> Donaghmore	9am	Ciarán Finn
	10am	Pat, Anne, James, Eileen and Betty Murphy
	11am	Elizabeth Kane, Racehill Park, (1st Anniversary)
<i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	12.30pm	Gerard Dowd with Baptism of a Baby with the New Easter Holy Water as the Octave Concludes

### Rejoice for Jesus is Risen from the Dead, Alleluia!



The season of Easter begins today and lasts for 50 days. Our churches are festooned in colour and with symbols of new life. The Paschal Candle is prominent, the priest's vestments are white and Alleluia is sung again. You are invited today, the greatest of all days, to rejoice in Jesus. For we are an Easter People and Alleluia is our Song.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Well done to all the girls and boys who are receiving their last sticker in their Lenten passports. After the 11am Mass today the children are invited to bring their passports to the Parish Centre. They will get their Easter egg there and the Parish Pastoral Council hope to take a photo of the children with our priests. We thank all who helped make this project a success.

### Pope Leo XIV First Easter Message



Pope Leo's first Easter Sunday Message and 'Urbi Et Orbi' Blessing will be broadcast from the balcony of St. Peter's this Easter morning on RTE and EWTN. As we remember how Pope Francis died this time last year we pray for his successor as he leads our Church.

### Parish Hospitality

This Easter Sunday morning you are most welcome to come for an Easter cup of tea or coffee after the 11am Mass in the Parish Centre. The Parish Centre has been decorated for the Easter season and there are special treats for all young members of our parish.



We pray for Stephen Curran, Swords, son of Martin and Patricia Curran, of Killeglad Green. We extend sympathy to them and pray that all the deceased inherit eternal life with the risen Lord. *Suaimhneas Shíoraí*



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions This Saturday 5pm - 6pm



### Launch of Faith History Project

Next year it will be 300 years since Ashbourne's famous priest, Fr. Michael Plunkett was buried in Killelland cemetery. To prepare for this milestone our parish begins this Easter Sunday reflecting on our faith history. Over the next two months our Parish will work at improving the parish archive of photographs and articles on matters to do with faith and parish event. Occasionally, in the newsletter we will post questions about local history to see if anyone can shed any light on them. In the jubilee year 2000 Ashbourne parish published its faith history but this now needs to be updated and strengthened.

### New Paschal Candle

Take a look at our new Paschal Candle. It is the most important candle in the church and parish. The Paschal Candle represents Christ who is the Light of the World. This year's candle comes from 'Duffy and Scott' candlemakers, from Tullamore, on the opposite side of our diocese. Five grains of incense were inserted into the candle at the Easter Vigil in the form of a cross. These represent the five wounds that Christ suffered in his hands, feet and side during the crucifixion. The first letter and the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega, which mean "the beginning and the end", as well as the current year, are inscribed on the candle alongside an image of a cross. This candle is lit every day during Mass throughout the Easter season and is used throughout the year for special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals.



### Holy Water and New Sacramental Oils

Holy Water was blessed during the Easter Vigil and is left in the baptismal fonts of our churches throughout the Easter season. New Holy Water is available for people to take home from the silver container at the sacristy door facing Ashbourne Church Cemetery. Holy Water is a sacramental that reminds us of the new life that we are called to as believers. During this season we celebrate our baptism and reflect not that we were baptised but that we are baptised and are called every single day to the 'living waters' of the Lord. The Three Holy Oils for use in our parish were placed in the ambry on Holy Thursday. They were blessed by Bishop Tom at the Chrism Mass on Spy Wednesday in Mullingar Cathedral.



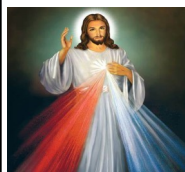
### Why do Christians give Easter Eggs?

The giving of eggs at Easter is very much part of Christian tradition. For many years people gave up eggs for Lent and they were collected up to be used during the days of Easter. People swapped eggs and gave them as gifts or reward for doing the Easter fast. Sometimes the story of Easter would be painted on the eggs. A chick hatching from an egg reflects Jesus rising from the dead and leaving the tomb. In the early centuries the egg was painted red to mark Jesus' death. In modern Christian times in the Western world when the Lenten fast moved on to people giving up sweet things, chocolate eggs became the norm in many parts of the world. As you give an egg or eat one reflect on its significance to us as Christians.



### Return of Trócaire Boxes

At our Masses next Sunday the Divine Mercy icon will be on display. The Irish word for mercy is Trócaire and one of the ways we show mercy on others is by collecting for the church charity Trócaire. Please return your Trócaire box to Mass next weekend and you can place it in the collection basket in front of the altar. Please do not leave your box unattended in the church. Thank you for your generosity to those in need of help.



### Work to Begin on Ashbourne Church Windows

On Monday April 20th the repair works on the six large windows in Ashbourne Church is due to begin. As stated at the end of January, analysis has shown that the frames of these windows are in a bad state of decay due to age and substantial water ingress. The Parish Finance Committee have prioritised this work for completion alongside enhancement of the entrance porch of Ashbourne Church.



### Parish Pilgrimage to Armagh

After the success of last August's pilgrimage to Knock the Parish Pastoral Council have organised a pilgrimage this year to the city of Armagh. Armagh is the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland and the See of St. Patrick. On the way to Armagh on Saturday August 22nd, the pilgrims enroute North, will visit the Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett in Drogheda and the birthplace of St. Brigid in Faughart, Co. Louth. The pilgrimage will leave Ashbourne Church at 8am and return at approximately 8pm. The bus fare per pilgrim will once again be €25 and places are allocated through the Parish Office. Bookings are now being taken.



### Final Places on Pilgrimage to the Shrines of France

Eight places remain on the pilgrimage that Fr. Michael is leading to the Shrines of France at the end of May. The itinerary will take in the two main Marian Shrines, namely Lourdes and La Salette. Many Catholics have been to Lourdes but not so many have visited the second French shrine of Our Lady. The seven day pilgrimage will also take in the papal city of Avignon and the mountain basilica of Rocamadour. The pilgrimage includes direct flights to and from France, transfers and tours, accommodation and half board. Cost €1,395. Bookings and enquiries JWT Travel Tel 01 2410800. Email: info@joewalshtours.ie



### Easter Offerings To Support our Priests

Today is an Offering Day for the Support of the Priests of our Parish. Both the envelope and basket collection today goes towards the payment of their salary. We thank you for your support and are grateful to all parishioners paying their Easter dues at this time. We thank all those who support their parish. Palm Sunday's contribution totals were as follows: Plate €1545, Shrines €920; Development Fund €915. Mile Buíochas.



### Happy Easter to All Our Parishioners

To all Our Parishioners, We take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Easter Season. Thanks to all of you who took the time out to celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection Ceremonies. Thanks to all our volunteers and helpers: Eucharistic Ministers; Readers; Altar Servers, Stewards; Choir members; Church Cleaners; Liturgical Art Helpers, the Volunteer Sacristans and all those who help us keep our parish vibrant and strong. Your help and cooperation is much valued and appreciated by parishioners and priests alike at times like this and right throughout the year. We hope that the journey through Lent and Holy Week, to Easter itself, will bring many blessings upon you and your families, and that it has brought you closer to Christ and to each other.



*Beannachtaí na Cásca díbh go leir*