

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE

Priests of the Parish
Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.
Fr. Jinse Jose, C.C.

Parish Secretary - Sinéad Carroll

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 Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcath,
 Dunshauglin and Skyrne*



Feast of the Holy Family A

28 December 2025



Did you know? Our Parish Centre is dedicated to the Holy Family and there is a beautiful marble statue of Jesus' family in the porch.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 27th	7pm	Mick Russell, Bourne Avenue (Month's Mind) Vincent Beggy; Fr Santon Pinto; Ollie Kavanagh; Emily and Vincent Byrne; Jessie Purcell; Mary Rochfort; Catherine O'Connell; Deceased of the O'Connell family
<i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>		
Sunday 28th	9am	Jane Kelleher
Donaghmore	10am	People of the Parish
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 29th	10am	Chris McLoughlin
Tuesday 30th	10am	Terry O'Brien
Wednesday 31st	10am	Rose Finegan
Thursday 1st January 2026	10am	Mass on New Year's Day For Peace
Friday 2nd	10am	Parish List of the Dead
Saturday 3rd	7pm	Mass in Thanksgiving for all the Volunteers in our Parish
	8pm	Annual Carol Service
Sunday 4th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Marie O'Donnell
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Dave Jordan, Castle Park Followed by Interment of Ashes
	12.30pm	Raymond Lynch, Castle Close Month's Mind followed by Interment of Ashes

On this feast, on the Sunday after Christmas Day. we celebrate the fact that at a particular moment in time God identified with us by sending us His Son and that he lived in a family just like us. The family is the kernel of God's love, and fabric of social cohesion. As we look at the crib we thank God for the family that Jesus was born into and the example of love that radiates from Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Mary, Mother of God and Our Mother, nourish our family with Your faith and Your love. Keep us close to Your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement and anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



Final Baptism of 2025

The Feast of the Holy Family is a lovely day to be baptised. At the 11am Mass today Jamie and Molly Murtagh from Edwardsville in Illinois bring their child Maia Alayne Murtagh for baptism. In total in 2025 in Ashbourne Parish there were 93 baptisms. 52 of these were girls and 41 were boys. The first New Year Baptisms are scheduled to take place on Saturday next, January 3rd.

**New Year's Day
World Day of Prayer for Peace**

Thursday is New Year's Day and it is the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Pope Leo encourages Catholics all over the world to pray on New Year's Day for peace. On January 1st, Mass will be celebrated at 10am in Ashbourne Church for this intention.



In his 2026 New Years Day message Pope Leo XIV emphasizes 'the need for disarmament, dialogue and the conversion of hearts to achieve lasting peace in a world marked by fear and militarization'. His message centres around the greeting of the risen Christ 'Peace be with you'. Our holiness calls for a reassessment of priorities by nations towards peace and co-operation. He is concerned by the rising budgets for arms and military expenditure, and the decrease in expenditure for human development. Pope Leo's message for World Day of peace serves as a poignant reminder of the Church's commitment to promoting peace and addressing the pressing issues of today.



Exposition for World Peace

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on New Year's Day from 10.30am to 8pm. All are encouraged to spend some time in 2026 in adoration and quiet prayer. It is a wonderful New Year's Resolution to commit to an hour's adoration. On New Year's Day especially we pray to the Lord for the Gift of Peace.



Opening and Closing Hours of the Parish Office

The Parish Office is open on Monday and Tuesday. It will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day and it will re-open as normal next week on Monday, January 5th.



New Year poem...

'Let go of the old, reach out for the new, for the past is cold and the future is due. Each year holds memories, some happy - some sad, we must treasure the good, let go of the bad. Make the most of each day at work and at play, for the old year is history, the future - a mystery'.
Phylis Ellison.

Thanks to Volunteers in our Parish

As 2025 concludes, gratitude is expressed to all our parish volunteers. You have helped ensure this year's Christmas ceremonies were beautifully and meaningfully celebrated in our churches. We thank you for your help not only now but throughout the year. It is by people being involved in their parish in a voluntary capacity that the faith community is strengthened, and the message of Christ is kept alive and active. On behalf of all parishioners you are thanked. The Vigil Mass is offered next Saturday evening (January 3rd) in thanksgiving for your role. *Mile buíochas.*



Praying for those who have died this Christmastide

We pray for Patricia Murphy of Fleenstown, whose funeral took place on Monday in Donaghmore Church. We pray this Christmas for her soul and for all of the faithful departed.



Sing Carols With Us



Our Annual Parish Carol Service takes place next Saturday evening (January 3rd) at 8pm in Ashbourne Church. The title of this year's service is 'Starlight'. Ashbourne Choral Ensemble, the newly formed Jubilatío Youth Choir along with Grace Hanley will lead the musical celebration. With the rush of Christmas over why not keep the festive mood alive by joining us for an evening of carols. Entrance is free with a retiring collection in aid of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The Feast of the Epiphany

Masses at 10am and 7pm

On Tuesday week we celebrate the twelfth day of Christmas with the Feast of the Epiphany. It is a day when we remember the Magi following a star and bringing gifts to the crib. Morning mass in Ashbourne will be at 10am and Mass that evening will be at 7pm.



2025 - The Year in Review

Part 1 - Change of Faces



As the Jubilee Year 2025 concludes it will be remembered by Catholics as one in which Pope Francis died just after leading the world in celebrating the Easter Triduum in St. Peter's Basilica. The election of Pope Leo XIV on May 8th gave us a new leader and the first English speaking Pope.

Our parishioner, Sinead Carroll took on the demanding role of Ashbourne Parish secretary on January 2nd. Our priests changed mid year, with Fr. Stephen and Fr. Brendan assigned by the bishop to Duleek Parish. A friend of Fr. Michael's, Fr. Ignatius from Ghana, filled in as interim pastor and he went down a treat! Fr. Jinse Jose of the Syro-Malabar Catholic rite and from Kerala in India was welcomed as our new curate at the end of August. In November he officially began his ministry and we wish him many happy years among us. A new Youth Choir began their music ministry at the 12.30pm Mass on Gaudate Sunday. Finally, we welcomed Mary Ward as a new volunteer on the Parish Office support team.



Thanks to those making their Annual Offering



Fr. Michael and Fr. Jinse are grateful to those making their annual Christmas offering at this time. The Christmas dues in Meath Diocese make up a large part of the monthly salary paid to the priests in a parish. One third of dues to a parish come in usually at Christmas and there are five other offering collections throughout the year to raise the finance for the number two priest's welfare account. If you have not got around toward giving to us yet, it is not too late. Please put your offering in an envelope and drop it into the Safe Deposit Donation Box which is at the back of Ashbourne Church near the shrine of St Joseph, or hand it into the Parish Office. Next week the Christmas contribution amounts will be published.

Fr. Michael and Fr. Jinse wish all our parishioners all the best for 2026 and we look forward to our ministry with you in the year ahead. Many thanks and Best Wishes Now and Always.

