

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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



Pentecost Sunday A

24 May 2026



Pentecost

*'He breathed on the disciples
and said 'Receive the
Holy Spirit.'* (John 20:22)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 23rd May <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Margaret Walshe, Robertstown, (Month's Mind) John McManus, Noreen O Leary; Catherine Guinnane; Al O Connell; Paddy and Margaret Daly, Geraldine McNamara.
Sunday 24th May	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Joan Milner, Hickeys Lane, (1st Anniversary)
Pentecost Parish Celebration	11am	Teresa Morgan, Bullstown (1st Anniversary) Baptism of Baby Fionn Colm O'Donoghue
Jubilatio Youth Choir Sing For Pentecost	12.30pm	Pauline Loughran and deceased of the Thorne and Loughran Families. Baptism of Baby Cormac John O'Donnell
Monday 25th	10am	Katie Fay
Tuesday 26th	10am	Paddy Ward
Wednesday 27th	10am	Patricia Buchanan
Thursday 28th	10am	People of the Parish
Friday 29th	10am	People of the Parish
Saturday 30th May	7pm	Mass for all those interred in Ashbourne Church Cemetery and Killeglend Cemetery
Sunday 31st	9am	Jerome Brennan, Deerpark (Month's Mind)
Donaghmore	10am	Mass for all those interred in Donaghmore and Greenogue Cemeteries
	11am	Thomas Cullen, Kilbrew (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Tommy Harrington, Milltown, (1st Anniversary)

Celebrating Pentecost 2026




This Sunday we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Fifty days after Easter and as part of Jesus' ascension God sent down the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the invisible power of God within each person. The flag bunting in Ashbourne Church reminds us that God goes out to all nations. At the 11am Mass we are celebrating some of the diversity of languages and nationalities that make up our parish. At this Mass we are having the Prayer of the Faithful in 9 different languages. All are welcome to the Parish Pastoral Centre after this Mass as we are having different international foods as part of this Sunday's hospitality.

*'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful
and enkindle in us the fire of your love*



We welcome the children from Gaelscoil na Cille and the After School Sacramental Program as *guests of honour* today as they receive Holy Communion for the first time on a Sunday - the Lord's Day. Congratulations to the children with us at Sunday Mass and all who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion in our parish yesterday. This is the last of our Holy Communion Sundays and we gift the children with 'A Holy Communion Memory Booklet' as they leave Mass. We keep all these children and their families in our prayers.



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



National Volunteer Week



This week is National Volunteer week and the parish would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who give so generously of their time, energy and talents to support Ashbourne / Donaghmore Parish. Like all parishes, we rely heavily on the volunteers and goodwill of many people to assist with the running and development of our Parish. Volunteers help in many ways and on various committees. If you are a volunteer, please be assured our priests and parishioners are grateful for what you do and who you are.

Ashbourne Church Time Capsule

The Parish Pastoral Council have added information to the capsule recently discovered in the church porch. This is to ensure even more of our faith history is passed on to future generations. The PPC recorded some of the changes to our parish since the extension was built in 1981. Details include the population growth, mass attendance figures, numbers receiving the sacraments, works on parish buildings, and priests of the parish down the years.



Church Porch Works

The builders are making good progress with their works on the enhancement of the entrance porch. Access to the church continues to be restricted to one main door as the painting and decorating occurs. On Sundays and other occasions, when there is a large congregation, the two fire doors can also be used for entry and exit. We apologise for any inconvenience these works have caused.



End of This Year's After School Programme

This year's After School Sacramental Programme will conclude on Wednesday next with a Mass of Thanksgiving in Ashbourne Church. We thank the children, families and teachers for working so well together. Enrolment for the parish after school classes next September continues during this month of May. 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 the month.



Petitions and Prayers Brought to Lourdes



Fr. Michael is leading a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Southern France in the coming days. He is bringing with him to Lourdes the written petitions and prayers from Ashbourne Parish. We remember him and all pilgrims going on this journey and taking our prayers with them.

Praying the Rosary

Pope Leo invites us to pray the Rosary regularly for world peace, and to aid spiritual reflection. Rosary is recited in our parish every morning before and after the 10am mass. Outdoor Rosary for the Marian Month will take place in Rath Lodge on Wednesday next, at 7.30pm. All Welcome.



Secondary School Leavers 2026

We wish every blessing on all those leaving secondary school education at this time. Fr. Jinse, who supports the school chaplaincy team, led a prayer service in Ashbourne Community School on Wednesday afternoon as the pupils graduated from ACS.



St. Declan's School Secretary



St. Declan's National School is recruiting a full time secretary (5 days a week) commencing August 2026. Further details are available on Education Posts with a closing date of this Wednesday, 27th May.

Second Collection at Masses Next Weekend

There is a 2nd Collection at our Masses next weekend. The collection takes place after communion and is the June Offerings for the Support of the priests of the parish. The financial support of the Parish Development Fund allows for the enhancement works taking place in Ashbourne and Donaghmore. All money donated in our parish to this fund is spent on capital projects in Donaghmore and Ashbourne. Last Sunday's Collection total amounts were as follows: Plate €1445; Shrines €900; Development Fund €875. *Mile buíochas.*



Cemetery Devotions 2026

The annual blessing of the graves in the cemeteries of Ashbourne and Donaghmore begin next weekend. Mass for those interred both in Ashbourne Church Cemetery and Killelland Cemetery will take place in Ashbourne Church on Saturday evening next at 7pm. Following this Mass at 7.45pm the graves next to Ashbourne Church will be blessed. Killelland graves will be then be blessed at 8.30pm. The graves in Donaghmore and Greenogue will be blessed next Sunday morning after the 10am Mass offered for those interred in these cemeteries. Greenogue devotions will be at 11.30am. On Saturday evening, June 6th, the 7pm Vigil Mass will be offered for those interred in St. Declan's Cemetery, with the blessing of the graves afterwards at 8.15pm.



Day to Day Up Keep: Cemeteries are special places for bereaved families, and for us as 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 asked to tidy their grave, and we remind plot holders to remove and take home old flower pots, withered wreaths and burnt candle ends. Sometimes in the week coming up to devotions 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 the parish. We are grateful to all the families and volunteers who help maintain cemeteries to a high standard.

Defrayment of Costs: As you can see many improvements have been carried out in the church cemeteries in the last year. Many parishioners have expressed how pleased they are with these improvements. We appeal for your generosity in the cemetery and church collections to help defray the cost of these improvements and ongoing cemetery maintenance. Your generosity and support is much appreciated.

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.

