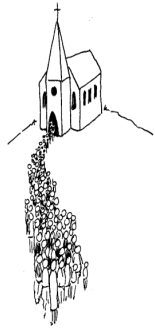


MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK



Ashford Mon Nov 28 th9:00 am Aidan Stafford
 Ashford Tues Nov 29th 9:00 am No Intention
 Ashford Wed. Nov 30th 9:00 am. No Intention
 Ashford Thurs Dec 1st 9:00 am -No Intention
 Ashford Friday Dec 2nd 9:00 am First Friday
 Glenealy Friday Dec 2nd 10:00 am-First Friday
 Ashford Saturday Dec 3rd Vigil Mass John & Ester Carolyn
 Glenealy Sunday9:30 Dec 4th
 Ashford Sunday 11:00 Dec 4th Pat Clarke



Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

First Sunday of Advent



THE GRINCH WHO STOLE ADVENT

Everyone knows Christmas is on its way. The shops are full of it and commercials on TV are already beginning to drive us to distraction. But never mind, the holiday adverts and the sales announcements on Boxing Day will soon be on their way.

Yes, Christmas is on its way. But that's the point: it's on its way; it's not here yet and before it arrives we have the wonderfully rich season of Advent to celebrate.

Waiting to go on holiday can be almost as much fun as actually going. Preparations for a wedding add to the excitement of the day itself. And if your team reaches the final, it's the thrill of the knockout rounds that makes the day all the more enjoyable.

The Sundays of Advent lead us along a path of anticipation, expectation, preparation and longing. They remind us that the more we spiritually get ready for Christmas the more we will be in a mood to celebrate it at its deeper levels. However, if the next three or four weeks are filled with nothing but buying presents and stocking the fridge, then our Christmas will be nothing but secular: it will come and go.

Advent proclaims that Christ comes into our world and our lives. Really comes. We know he came once as a baby. We know he will come again at the end of time. But he comes in so many different ways in our workaday lives. So Advent is the season when we recharge our batteries to stay awake, watching for the myriad people and situations that Jesus uses to reveal himself to us and to ask for our response.

In our modern society it's impossible to escape jumping the Christmas gun. Office Christmas parties have already started and Nativity Plays and Carol Services will fight with Advent for pride of place. But throughout all of this let's not forget what Advent offers us: the chance to examine ourselves on how welcoming we are when Jesus comes to us through other people and their needs, and the opportunity to express our sense of yearning for God's kingdom to be extended through our war-torn world.

Stay awake, says Jesus. And make sure the grinch doesn't steal Advent as well!



VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH WEEKLY COUNT

Many thanks to all who so willingly came forward to volunteer their time to assist with the weekly count. To begin the process we will hold a meeting of the entire group on Sunday December 4 at the Parish house at 3 pm. The details of the count procedure as well as the necessary completion of lodgements books etc will be reviewed . As well a rota will be arranged so that teams of three can carry out the count approximately once every month. Again many thanks for this assistance.



VOLUNTEERS TO FORM BAPTISMAL AND FUNERAL TEAMS

While we have had a very strong response to the call to assist in one new initiative , we have not had a similar show of interest with regards to these two .

We can only urge your support as we try to prepare our parish for the future requirements which will see more responsibility for assisting with the parish ministry moving toward the parishioners .Please give these two essential ministries your consideration and should you feel you can help please let Fr. Kevin know of your interest.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The annual collection for SVP will be taken up at all masses the weekend of Dec.10/11th.replacing the usual Share collection. SVP services are so very stretched in these times and your support is so much needed. Please be generous as they try to assist those in need!

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory: € 870
 Share € 555
 Planned Giving:€ 260
 Maint. & Devel € 140

Parish Information

Fr. Kevin Rowan Adm.

Telephone: 0404 40540/0872242230

revkev@eircom.net

Sacristans:

Ashford –Brendan Devine –brendandevine@eircom.net -0879705916

Glenealy- Eleanor O'Neill 0404-44469

Baptisms: Ashford 1st Sunday each month after 11:00 am Mass. 3 Weeks notice required. Glenealy 3rd Saturday each month at 12:00 . 3 weeks notice required.

Marriages: Three months notice required by Church and the State . N.B. New Civil law Regulations require that all couples present themselves to the priest in the Church before a marriage date can be booked into the Church Diary.

RECENT BAPTISMS



On Sunday November 20 Fr Gerry Byrne assisted at the baptism of Zoe Hanley and Oisin Clarke at their baptisms which took place in our Ashford Church. We extend our congratulations to their parents and relatives.

ROTAS FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS OF THE WORD.



The new year rotas are now available for collection in the sacristy. Please take a moment to collect yours. If there are any requirements for changes etc please advise Brendan .Thanks.



Presentations

On Saturday Dec 10th we will be having special presentations for two of our parishioners who have contributed so greatly to our parish and our church. We will be honouring Sr. Valery who was such a good friend to many and such a strong support for the church in her community work, and as well we will honour Mrs Jane Moody who for so many years cared for our Church in Ashford, .The presentations will take place after vigil Mass on Dec 10th and will be held in the National School. As there will be light refreshments ,baked good and such are very welcome. Please contact Bridget Brown should you wish to assist in any way. We hope for a good turn out to show our appreciation to these wonderful

MEETING FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION IN ASHFORD

A meeting for parents of children celebrating Confirmation in Ashford will take place on Monday the 5th of December at 7:30 p.m. in Ashford school. The commitment mass will take place on Sunday the 11th of December at 11:00 a.m. in Ashford church. We wish the young people every blessing in this special year.



MEETING FOR PARENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN ASHFORD



A meeting for parents of children celebrating First Holy Communion in Ashford will take place in Ashford school at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday the 13th of December the children will celebrate their enrolment mass on Sunday the 18th of December at 11:00 a.m. mass in Ashford church. We ask that you remember the children in your prayers in the coming weeks and months.



HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL ASHFORD CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Ashford school Fair will take place on this Sunday the 27th November from 12:30 until 3:00 p.m.

Come along and enjoy the fun day while supporting

your local school.

First Friday

Friday next Dec 2nd is First Friday. Masses will be celebrated for the Altar List of the Dead in Ashford at 9 am and in Glenealy at 10 am.



The Eucharist will be brought to those confined to their homes after the masses.

A silent hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be in place commencing after the 9 am Mass in Ashford. The rosary will be recited before the 9:00 a.m. mass in Ashford on that day.

CAROL SERVICE



The Youth choir will hold their annual Carol Service in aid of Crumlin Hospital on Friday the 16th of December. So put that date in your diary.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS & TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Carol Singing will be held on Saturday, 10th December at 4.30 p.m. sharp in the grounds of Ashford Church.

The Ceremony will again see the combined choirs of Ashford National School, Nun's Cross National School and the Unity Gospel Choir.

Everyone from far and near is welcome, so come along, bring your family and friends.

Join in the festivities of carol singing, bell ringing and Christmas cheer.

