

Parish Information

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Sacristans:

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Baptisms: Ashford 1st Sunday each month at 12 noon. 3 Weeks notice required.

Glenealy 3rd Sunday each month after 11:30 Mass. 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.



First Friday

Friday next 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 and the 10:00 a.m. mass in Glenealy. Please note this will mean that the rosary will be recited before the 9:00 a.m. mass in Ashford on that day.

NEW ENVELOPES FOR MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK



The purpose of this envelope is to provide a fund for the essential work that needs doing around the churches, the envelope can be placed in the second collection basket and all funds raised from this will stay completely in the parish. Please note that it is only the money in the envelopes that stays within the parish all other money in the second collection goes to the Diocese.

Parish Finance Committee



The term for the current Parish Finance Committee is now coming to an end and we are looking for volunteers to go on the new committee. Financial expertise is not a requirement just an interest in being involved in the running of your parish. The committee meet four times a year and are responsible for monitoring all aspects of parish finances. The salary is nil but the rewards will be great in Heaven. Anyone interested please contact Rosie Cooney at 0404 44648 or give their names to Fr Kevin or Fr Barry

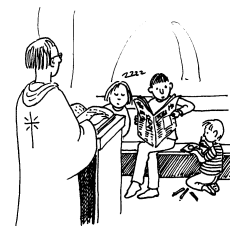
“Parish Newsletter sponsored by McDonnell Properties Ashford”



Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

www.ashfordparish.com

22nd Sunday of the Year



WORTHLESS WORSHIP

Canon O’Gloom rubbed the sleep out of his Sunday morning eyes as he managed to open the church just before the first parishioners turned up for the 9 o’clock Mass. The beer cans, chip papers and confetti in the porch reminded him that he really must get round to organising some sort of cleaning rota now that no one was left from the old one.

At seven minutes past nine he beckoned to Eleanor White who put on a backing CD of the Entrance Song, “I rejoiced when I heard them say let us go to God’s house”. A few faithful bothered to join in but most just listened to the synthesised sound of the keyboard and the croaking of the music group led by Sid Montgomery.

During the first reading the altar boy was sent off to go and get a taper to light the candles with. This came as a pleasant distraction from Cynthia Purejoy’s mumbling from the Book of Lamentations. Thank God the microphone wasn’t working.

Another blessing came when Canon O’Gloom announced he wasn’t going to preach today because he knew everyone wanted to be off and away early so they could enjoy the beautiful weather.

Clyde Schnell took the collection with his usual aplomb. There was no procession of the gifts since Sunday communion always came from the tabernacle, and soon we were into the Eucharistic Prayer. Clyde continued passing the basket, oblivious that something greater than his own performance was taking place in the sanctuary area.

Josh Wilkins tried to take part in the proceedings but was sucked into crawling under the pews to retrieve the felt-tip pens that his little sister Emily dropped while filling in a colouring book of scenes from the Book of Exodus.

As the congregation came forward for communion they were treated to a rendition of the “Ride of the Valkyries” from Maria Gonzalez’s mobile phone. A second collection to support retired nuns meant that Clyde stepped up to the plate once more before the congregation peeled out to “O, Lord, my God!”

It was then that Canon O’Gloom was struck by a phrase from today’s gospel:

“This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.”

A Warm welcome Back to our Youth Choir

This weekend we welcome back the youth choir after their Summer break. You



have been missed and we look forward to hearing some great music in the weeks ahead. New members are always welcome just drop in on Thursdays at 6:30 for their rehearsals.

MONEY MATTERS



A cynical parish priest I used to work with would stand up each year to talk about the finances of the parish and he used to say: **A PRAISH MAY BE ABLE TO FUNCTION WITHOUT RELIGION.... BUT IT CANNOT FUNCTION WITHOUT MONEY.**

Well while I would disagree with his first premise, I find myself agreeing with the second premise. Let me start by explaining where the various collections taken up in the church go:

The first collection in the mass together with Christmas and Easter dues goes to pay our contribution to the diocese; this money goes to support sick and retired priests. It also pays the salary of those who are not working in parishes and have no income from other sources, it also covers the general administration of the diocese. After we have paid the contribution to the diocese the remainder of the first collection goes to pay our salary. So what we receive is totally dependant upon what you place in the basket on a Sunday and I thank you for your generosity and ask you to continue to show your support.

The second collection the Share collection goes in its entirety to the diocese. This money is used for building projects in parishes that cannot afford to do the work themselves. It also helps parishes that cannot afford to meet the running costs of the parish themselves but the bulk of the money raised pays for the administration of the diocese.

The other collection the Planned Giving programme or the envelope collection is the one I would like to dwell on because that is the only money that stays in its entirety within the parish and that is the only money that we have to meet the running costs of the parish. On checking the records I see that only 24.8% of the those registered on our data base participate in the Family Giving programme, to those who are already contributing in this

scheme I say a big thank you, but I plead with you if you are not a member to please seriously consider joining.

So what I plead with you today and over the next week or so is that if you are not already contributing to the Planned Giving, envelope or standing order, to seriously consider becoming part of it by filling in and returning the sign up sheet printed below. Finally I thank you for your continued generosity and for your support, I hope and pray that together we may be able to build the parish community here in Ashford and Glenealy into a parish we can be rightly proud of.

Request for Planned giving Envelopes or a Standing Order Form.

Name:

Address:

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Telephone:

Please Tick one the boxes below:
I/We would like to contribute by:

Weekly Envelope

Monthly Envelope

Standing Order with Bank