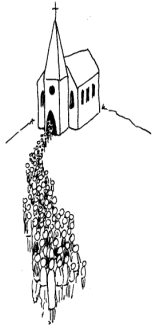


MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK



Ashford Mon Dec 5th:00 am Rosanna & Thomas Boyce
 Ashford Tues Dec 6th 9:00 am Jane Moody
 Ashford Wed. Dec 7th 9:00 am. No Morning Mass
 Glenealy Wed Dec 7 730
 Ashford Thurs Dec 8th 10:00 am –Lolly Armstrong
 Glenealy Dec 8th 11:30 Special children's mass
 Ashford Friday Dec 9th 9:00 am Jane Moody
 Ashford Saturday Dec 10th Vigil Mass Edward & Mary Byrne
 Glenealy Sunday 9:30 Dec 11th
 Ashford Sunday 11:00 Dec 11th Noellen Carney



CHRISTMAS CLEAN UP!

In preparation for Christmas we will be having a major cleaning of the church in Ashford on Monday Dec 5th from 7-8:30 pm. All who assist with the cleaning of our church are invited to join in as well as anyone who has an hour to spare. A list of suggested areas which will require a once over will be available for everyone. Please try your best to drop by for an hour or so.



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 ministries. 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 next weekend 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!

“Parish Newsletter sponsored by McDonnell Properties Ashford”



Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

Second Sunday of Advent

MISSED THE BOAT?

The weather forecast was bad, but no one expected what happened next. When the floods hit the cities and towns the waters began to rise like never before and soon many of the buildings were submerged under a thick muddy slime that swept away all in its path. St Thomas' parish church was no exception and in a brief space of time the water reached the roof.



It was then that someone noticed Canon Blimp who had climbed onto the outside of the St Thomas' and was now sitting on the roof with the water level at his feet. The emergency services were quickly at the church and they offered to rescue him in their boat. But Canon Blimp told them not to worry. He had complete faith in God and God would save him.

The rescuers went off to try and save others. On their way back they noticed the water was now at his waist and they offered again to get him into the boat, but he said it was important that people should see his faith and how God would save him. Finally, as night fell, they passed him again with water up to his neck but he declined their offer once more.

During the night Canon Blimp drowned and went to heaven. At the gates of heaven he was creating a bit of a stir about how God had let him down in front of all his parishioners. So St Peter went off and informed God about this unhappy new visitor. God told St Peter, “I don't know what he's moaning about. Tell him, I sent the boat three times!”

God comes under some peculiar guises. And we look for him in Advent



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory: € 825
 Share € 585
 Planned Giving: € 430
 Maint. & Devel € 140

Parish Information

Fr. Kevin Rowan Adm.

Telephone: 0404 40540/0872242230

revkev@eircom.net

Sacristans:

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

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 DEATH

On Friday Dec 2nd, Fr Kevin offered funeral Mass for Mrs. Jane Moody, long time carer for our Church in Ashford as well as our National School in Ashford. We extend to her family , relatives and friends our sincere condolences at this sad time. *May she rest in peace.*



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.

PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE



SMOOTHEN
THE PATH
FOR OUR GOD

The Parish Penitential Service will take place in Ashford church on

Wednesday 14th December at 8:00 p.m.

We encourage you to use this opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of forgiveness before Christmas.

ASHFORD COMMUNITY GROUP

At the most recent draw the following were the winners: € 300 Julia Byrne, € 150 Alex Colgan € 100 The Doyle family € Mrs Collier.

Congratulations to the winners and best of luck for the next draw (Xmas draw) to take place on Dec 17 2011 at Ashford House. Lots of prizes!!

THE FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

DECEMBER 8TH

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



December 8th is a Holy day of Obligation and Mass will be at 7:30 pm Dec 7th in Glenealy and 10:00 a.m. in Ashford on Dec 8th. And at 11:30 a.m. in Glenealy the children from the schools in Ashford and Glenealy will join us for the morning masses.

Please note that there will be no morning Mass in Ashford on December 7th.

CAROL SERVICE



The Youth choir will hold their annual Carol Service in aid of Crumlin Hospital on Friday the 16th of December at 7:30 p.m. So put that date in your diary.

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.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Annual Ashford Christmas Carols & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Next Saturday, 10th December at 4.30 p.m. in Ashford Church Grounds



Don't forget to come along and enjoy the annual carol singing and tree lighting ceremony here in our church grounds.

Join the melodic voices of the combined children's choirs from Ashford National School and Nun's Cross National School who reunite with the highly acclaimed Unity Gospel Choir for this truly unique event.

Everyone from far and near is welcome to come along and enjoy themselves whilst heralding in the Christmas Festivities.

Turning on the Christmas tree lights will be two very lucky school children. Bring your family and friends and make sure to get there as early as you can. Wrap up warm and join in the merriment of carol singing, bell ringing and lots of Christmas cheer. The organisers promise there'll be lots of goodies too!