

For Masses
Next Weekend



Readers



Eucharistic
Ministers

Ashford

Carmel Grant
Marie Togher

Michael Noone
Eileen Byrne

Glenealy

Margaret O'Neill

Denis McWatt
Margaret McDermott

Anne Clarke
Gary Dowling

To be determined at Mass

Vigil -6:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

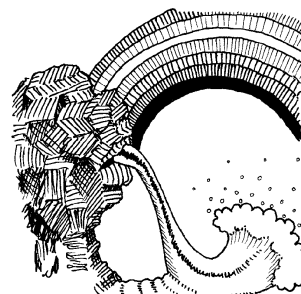


Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

3rd Sunday of Lent

TAKE A GOOD DRINK

WORLD WATER DAY



Water does three things.

The most obvious thing it does is to wet. Whatever water comes into contact with, it changes. The sound of children squealing with delight at the end of a hosepipe is a familiar one. So is the groan of someone caught in the rain without an umbrella. If water gets on you, then you're no longer the same. For better or worse!

Water also cleans. We use it to wash in since it is one of the best agents we know of for taking away stains and dirt. Perhaps it's not surprising that when Christians

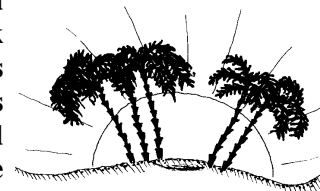
think of water they often associate it with baptism's role in cleansing us from original sin. The psalms too speak frequently about being washed from sin and made whiter than snow.

Yet it's not this aspect of water that Jesus emphasises in today's gospel. It's the third function of water: water refreshes and brings life.

All over the world today there are men and women standing in our churches who are asking to be admitted to the Church community, to be baptised, to become Christians. And the gospel addressed to them on this day is about the gift which Jesus promises: water to take away your thirst and lead you on to eternal life.

If you are to be a Christian, then it's because you find the message of Jesus so attractive that no other drink will satisfy you. The promise of Jesus reaches the parts that no other drink can reach. And what a promise this is! Jesus tells us that our deepest yearnings and longings will be satisfied. In his life begins to make sense, priorities start to change, the will of God becomes our only goal.

So as thousands of would-be Christians stand before congregations today and ask to be given this living water, we use the opportunity to count our own blessings and to thank God for the gift of faith which we often take for granted but which we know is a well from which we can draw water in times of drought, and a spring that offers us eternal life.



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory: € 730

Share: € 530

Planned Giving: € 305

Maint. & Devel € 170

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

Ashford Mar 28th 9 am No Intention

Ashford Mar 29th 9am No Intention

Glenealy Mar 29th 10:00am

Ashford Mar 30th 9:45 am No Intention

Ashford Mar 31st 9:00 No Intention

Glenealy Mar 31st 10am

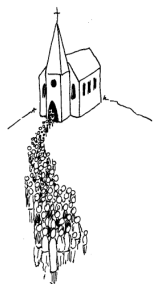
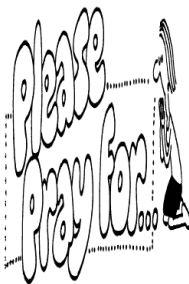
Ashford Apr 1st 9 am Altar List of the Dead

Glenealy Friday Apr 1st 10am Altar List of the Dead

Ashford Apr 2nd 6:00 pm-Kitty Timmons

Glenealy Sunday Apr 3rd 9:30 am

Ashford Sunday Apr 3rd 11:00 am Molly McTeijue, Michael Hayes

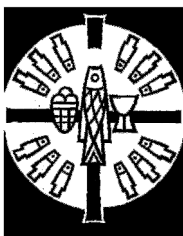


FIRST FRIDAY

Friday next April 1st 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. The rosary will be recited before the 9:00

a.m. mass in Ashford on that day.



CELEBRATION OF FIRST CONFESSION

Please remember the children from Ashford N.S. who will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Tuesday next the 29th March at 7:30 p.m. in Ashford church.



"Parish Newsletter sponsored by McDonnell Properties Ashford"

Parish Information

Fr. Kevin Rowan Adm.

Telephone: 0404 40540

revkev@eircom.net

Sacristans: Ashford –Brendan Devine –brendan443@gmail.com -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.

Fr Edward Barry CC

Telephone: 0404 40224

edwardgbarry@eircom.net

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Over four years ago Archbishop Diarmuid Martin indicated that he wanted parishes in the Archdiocese to work together for the Mission of the Church. To that end the boundaries commission began to look at possible groupings of parishes based on proximity and population. After a long period of discernment the grouping for our area has been agreed it is: Wicklow-Rathnew, Ashford-Glonealy, Kilbride-Barndarrig, Rathdrum, Roundwood, Glendalough, six parishes working together. This is a very big area and it will require quite a lot of good will and hard work on behalf of parishioners and priests to make sure that we are, as Archbishop Martin set out at the beginning of this process, “*Working together for the Mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin*”

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS NEEDED IN OUR AREA? The first area that we need to look at is the area of personnel, as of the 14th March 2011 there were nine priests in the six parishes holding full time positions. In addition there are two retired priests who help out well beyond the call of duty. So as of March 2011 we have nine priests in the area covering 13 churches and over any given weekend there are 24 masses in those 13 churches. This is not something that is sustainable going forward. If we are to work together it will mean looking honestly at the times and number of masses in our individual parishes and seeing if there could be a better way of utilising the scarce resources that we have. This may mean looking at the parishes close by and

Continued:

organising our mass times so that the widest possible scope and choice is given to people in the area i.e. that we do not have a 10.00 a.m. mass in all six parishes.

The question then for our Parish is do we need the number of masses we have at the moment? Can we work together with our neighbouring parishes to co-ordinate mass times so that parishioners have the widest possible scope in terms of times and that the priests can cover each other in times of crisis or holiday?

Change is going to come whether we like it or not but in this time before that change is forced upon us we have an opportunity to plan and get the best possible outcome for our parish. We would welcome your views on how we can best plan our way forward as we work together for the Mission of the Church in Dublin Diocese.

RECENT BAPTISM

There was one baptism celebrated in our parish recently. In Glenealy Church Fr Edward baptized Rhys McConlogue on March 19th. We offer his parents and relatives our sincere congratulations.



MENTAL HEALTH WICKLOW INFORMATION EVENING

For your information

The Wicklow Mental Health will be sponsoring Dr. Harry Barry who will provide an information session on depression. During the course of the evening he will speak about how the brain creates the mood and the medical basis for the various conditions. He will also answer many commonly asked questions about mental illness and forms of treatment used by GP’s, specialists and others in his empathic style. **It will be hosted by Wicklow Mental Health Association in the Friar’s Suite at the Grand Hotel in Wicklow town on Tuesday, March 29th 2011, the doors will open at 7.15pm and the event will commence at 7.30pm sharp. Entry is free and all are welcome to come along.**

ASHFORD TIDY TOWN RACE NIGHT

WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY 15TH APRIL at 8PM IN THE WOODPECKER PUB.

We would like to invite everyone to come along, it will be a fun night, we are raising money for Dustbins, Planters and Tools. If you would like to sponsor a Horse & Jockey €20, please phone Kathleen 087 2411394, Nicola 087 9943905 or Bernard 087 9188298.

