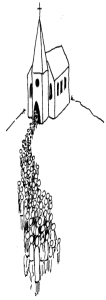


MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK



Ashford Mon Jan 23rd 9 am Prayer Service
 Ashford Tues Jan 24th 9:00 am Prayer Service
 Ashford Wed. Jan 25th 9:00 am. Prayer Service
 Ashford Thurs Jan 26th 9:00 am –Prayer Service
 Ashford Friday Jan 27th 9:00 am Prayer Service
 Ashford Saturday Jan 28th Vigil Mass Mick Crean MM , Billy Clarke
 Glenealy Sunday Jan 29th 9:30
 Ashford Sunday Jan 29th 11:00 Ned Quinn



Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SPOILSPORT GOD?

When Jonah had finished preaching to the people of Nineveh they repented and God forgave them. But Jonah was furious and accused God of being lily-livered for not bringing a good old-fashioned disaster on them as a warning to other sinners. I suspect that we can all sense a bit of Jonah in us. There are times when we think that certain people should be made an example of rather than shown clemency. Yet the very first words of Jesus in Mark's gospel show that God wants people not to be damned but to turn back to him: 'Repent and



believe the Good News'.

Forgiveness is in many ways the greatest humiliation, for it requires of us that we actually admit we are sinners. Today we are very good at finding excuses for our sin. We talk about compulsive behaviour, diminished responsibility and mitigating circumstances. This might all be true, but it doesn't take away the sin. We are capable of deliberately doing something wrong, and in the depth of our being we know that we regularly do sin.

And Jesus knew it too. Yet strangely he was not so much obsessed with sin as with forgiveness. He urged people to look at themselves squarely, warts and all, and to acknowledge their need to change. This is what real repentance means... change.

If we avoid minimising and evading our sinfulness then we have the opportunity to face the truth and to grow. For the truth sets us free to develop rather than live the life of sapping torment that ignores our behaviour or relativises it by saying 'Well, everyone does it these days'.

Admitting our need for forgiveness breaks the spiritual paralysis. The grace of repentance empowers us to act decisively. We do not deserve the unconditional pardon that God offers, but in Christ we are entitled to it. For when we admit our need of repentance we enable our minds to think clearly once more, to refocus on the truth of the Good News, to lose the heartache that sin always brings with it. Sinful actions ultimately entrap and make life deadly. Repentance offers fresh hope and resurrection.



NO WEEKDAY MASS

Fr. Kevin is taking a short break. In his absence there will be no daily mass celebrated in Ashford Church. There will be a daily Prayer Service taking place at 9 am each day followed by the rosary. Arrangements have been finalized so that weekend Masses will be celebrated as usual in both our Churches.

NEXT CELEBRATIONS FOR THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

Will be on Sunday the 12th of February at the 9:30 a.m. mass in Glenealy and at the 11:00 a.m. mass in Ashford. We pray for God's blessing on the children, their parents and teachers in a special year for them.



VOLUNTEERS TO FORM FUNERAL TEAMS

We thank Patricia who spoke to us at last weekend masses, providing an overview of how the parishes in Bray have been working to develop funeral teams so as to further encourage the parishioners in taking on a more active role in Church liturgy. We commend them for their leadership and continue to encourage those who have expressed an interest in our parish to move ahead with the commitment.

As she mentioned there will be training offered and for us this will be taking place toward the end of February. If you have a wish to take part in this training please let Fr. Kevin know, or in his absence Brendan. More details to follow!!



"Parish Newsletter sponsored by McDonnell Properties Ashford"

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION
Offertory: € 880
Share € 600
Planned Giving: € 360
Maint. & Devel € 155

Parish Information

Fr. Kevin Rowan Adm.

Telephone: 0404 40540/0872242230

revkev@eircom.net

Sacristan:

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.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

From this weekend plan giving envelopes will be available in the Church for those who wish to use them. The Planned Giving envelope and the Maintenance envelope are the only money that remains 100% in the parish and are used to cover the costs for our running Churches. To those that already contribute we say a big thank you to the majority who do not we ask you to Please take either a weekly or monthly set of envelopes and make your donation however big or small to your parish. Your support to the parish is very much appreciated!!

The money given at the various collections are used as follows:

1st Collection: This goes towards the salary of the priest of the parish and also supports the sick and retired priests of our diocese.

Share: This money in its entirety goes to the Diocese and is used to pay the running costs of the diocese, this accounts for about 70% of the money and the rest is to support poorer parishes of the diocese.

Planned Giving/Maintenance Envelopes: This money remains totally in the parish and is used to pay the day to day running costs of the parish.

Christmas/Easter Dues: This money forms the greatest part of the priests salary for the year and also contributes to the upkeep of the sick and retired priests of our diocese.

CHRISTMAS DUES ENVELOPES

Many thanks to all who have made use of the Christmas Dues envelopes. This money as you know is immensely important as it forms a good portion of the annual salary for the priests as well as assisting the retired priests and those priests who are ill.

So many thanks!!



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012

This Years theme: We will all be changed



There will be a Churches Together Service held in the Church of Ireland on Church Hill Wicklow on this Sunday January 22 at 7:30 pm. It will be attended by the Unity Gospel Choir and promises to be a very worthwhile ecumenical Service
All are invited and all are welcome

PASTORAL PROGRAMME TO PREPARE FOR THE 50TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS (IEC2012)



The 50th International Eucharistic Congress is envisaged not just as a weeklong event but as a spiritual journey of preparation and celebration. To help pilgrims along the way, the IEC2012 have mapped the journey in four stages and have developed a Pastoral Preparation Programme for the Congress, providing resources to help reflection on the Congress theme - “The Eucharistic: Communion with Christ and with One

Another”. Check out the pastoral resources that are available on the Congress website www.iec2012.ie/pastoral.

TAX REFUND

TO ELIGIBLE CHARITIES 2011

During this past week we sent out letters to all who qualify for the Tax Refund scheme, to qualify you have to donate a minimum of €250 to the parish in any given tax year. This year 92 parishioners are according to our records eligible to participate in the scheme which is an important source of revenue to the parish. Last year the parish received €6.200 from Revenue in relation to this scheme. We ask those who receive notification to please fill in the required forms and return them to Fr. Kevin as soon as possible so that the claims can be processed. Many thanks for your help in this matter and your continued support of our parish.

