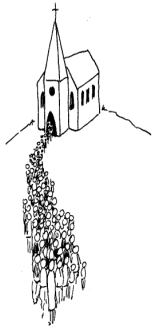


MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK



Ashford Mon Dec 12th:00 am A Special Intention
 Ashford Tues Dec 13 th 9:00 am Jane Moody
 Ashford Wed. Dec 14th 9:00 am. Richard & Alice Fitzpatrick
 Ashford Thurs Dec 15th 9:00 am Jane Moody
 Ashford Friday Dec 16th 9:00 am John & Ellen
 Dignam & Elizabeth Ward
 Ashford Saturday Dec 17th Vigil Mass Billy
 Timmons
 Glenealy Sunday Dec 18th 9:30
 Ashford Sunday Dec 18th 11:00 Terri Connolly & Eileen Quinn



VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER THE CHRISTMAS CALENDAR



Do you have an hour or so to spare in the coming week if so would you be so kind to take a bundle of envelopes for your area and deliver them. The envelopes are available in both churches this weekend and are addressed and bundled into particular areas. Thanks for your help in this as it will save the parish on the cost of postage.

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 this 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

Third Sunday of Advent

SHOUT FREEDOM

It seems that Christians get a bad press whatever they say. If they speak out against practices in modern society that contradict God's teaching, then they are branded as misery-guts and doom merchants. If they tell others about the wonderful life that faith in Jesus allows them, then they are bracketed among the deluded and the deceived.



Well today, Gaudete Sunday, is definitely a day for those who want to celebrate. For it reminds us that our lives are a continual act of readying the way for Christ's return, and a joyous return at that. Nothing can take that confident hope from us.

Paul encourages us to be happy and grateful at all times. This is not the Cheshire Cat Christian whose smile is fixed in the face of conflict, war, evil and disaster. Such a believer fails to face the reality of our worldly existence. Rather, we are called to experience a deep-sown sense of happiness and well-being that comes from Christ's promises, but at the same time to be realistic about how much more we have to do if the kingdom of God is to be established in our world.

Rejoicing at all times does not mean constantly partying. It means carrying within us the confident hope that Jesus will return, in whatever shape or form, at the end of time and will establish true justice and peace. So when we celebrate Advent we are ratifying our belief that Christ has already conquered evil, and whatever might happen to us and our world is transient, something which can never have a permanent hold over us and our graced spirit.



Christians cannot fear the coming of Jesus, because the coming of Jesus is the coming of a saviour, a God who wants us to be part of his innermost circle. Our God comes not to exact vengeance but to set us free. That's why our unshakeable trust in Jesus is accompanied by constant prayer. We long to be free of what drags us down in this life, and we pray to Jesus to come with his saving power into our lives each day. He has promised to answer our call. And we are confident that he will.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory: € 670
 Share € 480
 Planned Giving: € 425
 Maint. & Devel € 125

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 BAPTISMS

On Sunday Dec 4th , Fr Kevin baptised two children in Ashford Church. We welcome Margaret Moorehouse and Isobel Martin into our parish family and extend to their parents and relatives our sincere congratulations on this happy occasion.

RECENT WEDDING

A On Friday Dec 2nd Fr Kevin assisted at the wedding of Conall O'Sullivan and Denise O'Brien whose wedding took place in Glenealy Church. We extend to the happy couple our sincere congratulations as they begin their married life together. May they experience only joy and happiness for many years to come!



PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE

The Parish Penitential Service will take place in Ashford church on Wednesday next the 14th December at 8:00 p.m. We encourage you to use this opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of forgiveness before Christmas.



PENITENTIAL SERVICES IN OUR NEIGHBOURING PARISHES

Rathnew on Monday 19th December at 7:30 p.m.,
Rathdrum on Monday 19th December at 8:00 p.m.
Wicklow Tuesday 20th December at 8:00 p.m.,
Roundwood on Thursday 22nd December at 8:00 p.m.
Glendalough/Laragh Friday 23rd December at 8:00 p.m.



CAROL SERVICE

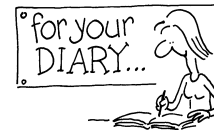
The Youth choir will hold their annual Carol Service in aid of Crumlin Hospital on Friday the 16th of December at 7:30 p.m. So put that date in your diary.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN UP!

Many thanks to everyone who joined in to do a clean up of the Ashford church for Christmas. Special thanks as well to Scott Quinn of Ashford Cleaners for cleaning our tiles as his company's annual contribution to the work! Well done everyone!!



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.

MASS TIMES OVER CHRISTMAS



Christmas Eve
Saturday 24th Dec
6:30 p.m. in Glenealy
8:00 p.m. in Ashford

Christmas Day
Sunday 25th Dec.
8:00 a.m. Ashford
9:30 a.m. Glenealy
11:00 a.m. Ashford

MASS INTENTION LIST FOR CHRISTMAS

As usual masses over the Christmas period will be celebrated for those whose names are on the Altar list of the dead. If you wish to have a loved ones name included please leave it into the sacristy as soon as possible. Please indicate which mass you want your loved one to be remembered at. The last date for receiving names will be Tuesday the 20th of December.



PRESENTATION TO SR. VALERY

Due to the untimely death of Mrs. Jane Moody R.I.P. the presentation for Sr. Valery has now been re-scheduled to Dec 16th at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish House(Fr Barry's old house) All are welcome and should you wish to offer baked goods etc these are very welcome!