

For Masses  
Next Weekend



Readers



Eucharistic  
Ministers

**Ashford**

Joe Kavanagh  
Deirdre McMahon

Paddy Andrews  
Tom McHugh

**Glenealy**

Marie Phelan

Donal Dunne  
Marie Togher

Brendan Devine  
Denise O'Donnell

To be determined at Mass

Vigil –6:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.



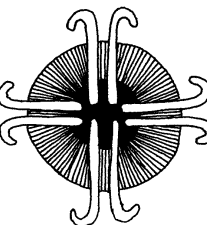
# Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

*4th Sunday of Lent*

## THROW AWAY YOUR WHITE STICK

The internet's a fascinating thing. Just connect to it, type in a word or phrase and suddenly you have access to hundreds of thousands of sites all vying for your attention and offering the solution to your questions.

Of course, it's not quite as simple as that, is it? You want to find out about the queen who ruled in 19th century Britain and so you type in "Victoria". However, all you get is page after page of tourist guides to Canada, or Australian Chamber of Commerce web sites.

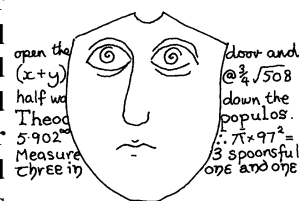


Information is a wonderful thing but it needs a certain ability to see through it and sift the evidence before it becomes really useful. And too much information simply blinds us; we don't know which avenue to go down to find our answer.

Today's long gospel passage from St John presents us with the man who has been blind since his birth. He has always had to rely on others to describe the physical world to him, always had to ask directions from strangers, always lived off second hand accounts of what people and places were like. Today he would carry a white stick. When Jesus gives him his sight back it transforms his world. Not only do his eyes work correctly but his vision of reality is transformed. So sure is he of the power of Jesus that he even begins to argue and taunt the religious leaders. These same leaders had previously blamed him and his parents for his blindness.

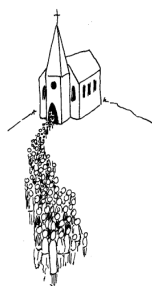
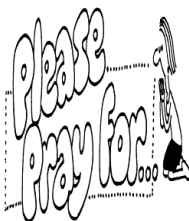
As we move towards Easter and the renewal of our baptismal promises, the Church gives us this gospel passage to remind us that our faith in Christ has opened our eyes to see clearly what we must do to live the life God wants of us. We no longer are blindly searching for meaning and fulfilment. We need feel no fear when faced with so many shallow and pale imitations of what life is about, so many people who pretend to have the secret of happiness, so much junk information that offers us the world.

When Jesus calls us out of darkness into light he offers us the gift of faith, the ability to discern, to see clearly, to journey without stumbling. Throw away your white stick, he says, and see how wonderful the world can be!



### MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

- Ashford Apr 4th 9 am No Intention
- Ashford Apr 5th 9am No Intention
- Glenealy Apr 5th 10:00am
- Ashford Apr 6th 9:45 am No Intention
- Ashford Apr 7th 9:00 No Intention
- Glenealy Apr 7th 10am
- Ashford Apr 8th 9 am No Intention
- Ashford Apr 9th 6 00 pm-Francis Woolley, Michael Dunleavy
- Glenealy Sunday Apr 10th 9:30 am
- Ashford Sunday Apr 10th 11:00 am Anne Crean



### MASS TIMES HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Holy Thursday April 21st  
Mass at 7:30 p.m. in both Churches  
Good Friday April 22nd  
Stations of the Cross at 12:00 noon in both churches.  
3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's

Passion in both churches.

Holy Saturday April 23rd  
Vigil in Glenealy at 7:30 p.m.  
Vigil in Ashford at 9:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 24th  
Mass in Ashford at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Mass in Glenealy at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.



### PARISH PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

A reminder to all Confirmation Candidates that a special parish celebration will take place on Sunday next the 10th of April at the 11:00 a.m. mass in Ashford.

We also encourage the confirmation candidates to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness at the parish penitential service on the 13th April at 8:00 p.m..



### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory: € 870

Share: € 500

Planned Giving: € 192

Maint. & Devel € 143

## Parish Information

Fr. Kevin Rowan Adm.

Telephone: 0404 40540 / 0872242230

revkev@eircom.net

### Sacristans:

Ashford –Brendan Devine –brendan443@gmail.com -0879705916

Glenealy- Eleanor O’Neill 0404-44469

**Baptisms:** Ashford 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month after 11:00 am Mass. 3 Weeks notice required. Glenealy 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER THE EASTER ENVELOPES



Can you spare a few minutes to deliver the Easter Envelopes on your road or in your area. If so please just take the bundle for your road/area from the front of the church this weekend. Many thanks for all your help.

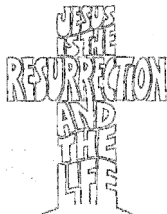
## NEW CARERS FOR GLENEALY CHURCH URGENTLY NEEDED

Despite several requests we regret that the response for help in looking after Glenealy church has been very poor and help is urgently needed to replace those who have dropped out after many years of service. If you can spare an hour or two a week to clean and look after your church please leave your name in the sacristy after mass.



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH THE EASTER SERVICES IN GLENEALY CHURCH?

If the answer is yes please stay behind after mass today and meet with Fr. Barry who will be able to allocate tasks for the various services of Holy Week. Thanks for all your help.



## ALTAR LIST FOR THE EASTER MASSES

If you would like to have a loved ones name included on the altar list for the masses over Easter please leave in the list of names by Sunday 17th April. Names received after that date may not be included on the list.



## ADVANCE NOTICE

### PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR LENT

The Parish Lenten Penitential service will take place in Ashford church on Wednesday 13 April at 8:00 p.m. We encourage you to use this opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness before Easter. We especially encourage the Confirmation Candidates to avail of this opportunity as there will be no special celebration of the Sacrament of Forgiveness for them before their May Confirmation.



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY BLESSING OF THE GRAVES



I have hoped in the LORD. I have said: You are my GOD. My life is in your hands.

**Killoughter Cemetery:** Tuesday 26th July at 7:30 p.m.

**Glenealy Cemetery:** Wednesday 27th July at 7:30 p.m. We realise that this is a change from the normal for Glenealy however due to the staffing changes outlined last week it is no longer possible to have the blessing on the usual Saturday.

Please note also that the blessing of the graves will be a prayer service and mass will not be celebrated on either of the above dates in the cemeteries. We apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause but hopefully this early warning will give people a chance to plan.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**WELL DONE!** To the children from 2nd Class in Ashford N.S. who celebrated the sacrament of Penance for the first time on Tuesday last. A big thank you to their teachers for all their hard work.

## ASHFORD COMMUNITY GROUP

At the most recent draw the following were the winners: €300 Patsy McDonald, €150 Peter King, €100 Frank Wolohan, €50 Paula Rice. Our congratulations to these winners and the best of luck to all for the next draw to take place on April 30th in the Woodpecker.



## 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.