

For Masses
Next Weekend



Readers



Eucharistic
Ministers

Ashford

**Christmas Eve Vigil –
9:00 pm**

Maureen Stockdale 1st
Marie Togher 2nd/GA

Pat Ferguson
Anne Clarke

Christmas Day 9:00 .

Tom McHugh

Brendan Devine

Christmas Day 11:00

John Holly 1st
Sandra Fitzgerald 2nd/GA

To be determined

Sunday 11:00

Paddy Andrews
Tom McHugh

Teresa Bourke

Glenealy

Sunday 9:30a.m.

Lizzie McElhinney

To be determined at Mass

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK DEC 20TH-DEC 26TH



Ashford Monday Dec 20th 9am Michael O'Toole
 Ashford Tuesday Dec 21st 9 am A Special Intention
 Ashford Wednesday Dec 22nd 9:00am Mary & Jack Byrne
 Ashford Thursday Dec 23rd 9am Eileen & Dan Kerrigan
 Ashford Friday Dec 24th 9:00 am May Paddy & Bill O'Neill
 Glenealy Friday Dec 24th Christmas Eve 7:30 pm Christmas Mass Intentions
 Ashford Friday Christmas Eve 9:00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions
 Ashford Christmas Day 9:00 am Christmas Mass Intentions
 Glenealy Christmas Day 9:30 am Christmas Mass Intentions
 Ashford Christmas Day 11:00 am Christmas Mass Intentions
 Glenealy Christmas Day 11:30am Christmas Mass Intentions
 Ashford Sunday Dec 26th 11:00 am Willie Hender
 Glenealy Sunday Dec 26th 11:30 am



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ANNUAL COLLECTION



The local conference of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank most warmly all those who supported their recent collection both in the churches of the parish and also in the street collection in Wicklow. A special vote of thanks to all the volunteer collectors who helped to hold the buckets during these cold hours. The church collection came to €5705



Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

www.ashfordparish.com

4th Sunday in Advent

HOW MANY STOPPINGDAYS TO GO?



You can't turn on the radio this week without being reminded of how many "shopping" days are left before Christmas is upon us. You could be forgiven for thinking that the main purpose of Christmas is to buy things. And if you haven't gone out and spent your money on gifts and goodies then perhaps you haven't really celebrated Christmas.

For Christians nothing could be further from the truth, since Christmas is the celebration of God's becoming a child in the person of Jesus, and our prime aim is to recall that event so that it may have an effect on us here and now.

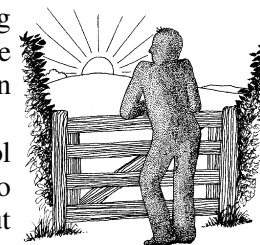
Because Christmas has been hijacked as a season of commercial bonanza, it can be hard for us to focus on its true meaning. It is essentially about simplicity rather than opulence. The second person of the Trinity humbled himself to share our human nature so that he could teach us how to live, how to love, how to learn and how to laugh. The birth of Jesus took place so that we could find out what it means to be truly human.

Amid the clatter of TV adverts offering super savings at our local stores, we remind ourselves that the season of Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the Christmas event. The Church journeys along a four week path of expectation, of yearning and longing for the coming of the Messiah, of self-examination, of rededication and commitment, of joyful preparation.

It's tempting to jump the gun and celebrate a wonderful carol service weeks before the 25th, or to hold a Christmas party to end all Christmas parties when there's still ten days to go. But it really is worth the wait if we stop to ponder on the Advent journey.

So today we meet Mary and Joseph in our scripture readings. Both of them aware that something momentous is about to happen to them both patiently pondering on the outcome. No rush. No fuss. Just active co-operation with God's will as announced by the angel.

If Advent has passed you by, don't worry. There are still some stopping days left before Christmas



**LAST WEEKEND'S
COLLECTION**

Offertory:	€ 590
Planned Giving	€ 485
SVP:	€ 5705
Maint. & Devel	€ 105

"Parish Newsletter sponsored by McDonnell Properties Ashford"

Parish Information

Fr. Kevin Rowan Adm.
Telephone: 0404 40540
revkev@eircom.net

Fr Edward Barry CC
Telephone: 0404 40224
edwardgbarry@eircom.net

Sacristans: Ashford -Brendan Devine -brendandevine@eircom.net -0879705916
Glenealy- Eleanor O'Neill 0404-44469

Baptisms: Ashford 1st Sunday each month after 11:00 am Mass.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are asked to submit as soon as possible the names of loved ones they wish to have remembered at the Masses during Christmas. As well, could you please indicate at which mass you would want your loved one remembered. Closing date for receiving these names is Tuesday 21st December.



ASHFORD ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE

In preparation for Christmas there will be Adult choir practice in Ashford Church on both Tuesday and Thursday next in the evenings at 7:30 pm.

New members very welcome!!

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE-2010

On Saturday evening Dec.11, there was a very large gathering outside the Ashford church where we had a delightful and seasonal lighting of our 17th annual Christmas tree.

The lighting ceremony was performed by the combined primary schoolchildren choirs from Ashford and Nun's Cross Schools. They were accompanied by the Unity Gospel Choir. The event was organized by Mary Keating of the parents association N.S with the assistance of the teachers and parents from both schools.

The tree was erected by Des Tully with the assistance of his team of Malcolm Spenser, Nigel Tighe, Michael McGrath and Brendan Devine. George Smullen of the Yew Tree Restaurant, Ashford kindly donated the beautiful 20ft tree. A sincere thanks to all involved who had to brave the inclement weather conditions and leave their cozy fires to have our tree in place. Some curiosity exists among the junior members of our congregation about the red light on top of the tree. Well! There are two reasons for it. Primarily, it is an old Irish custom to have a prominent light in the night sky on Christmas eve to show Mary and Joseph and the little baby Jesus that they are welcome to stay and rest in safety wherever this light shines. Also, it will act as a guide for Santa and his reindeer as they travel with their toys to all the children!

Mass Times Over Christmas in Ashford Parish

Friday 24th Dec. 7:30 p.m. Mass in Glenealy

9:00 p.m. Mass in Ashford

Saturday 25th Dec. 9:00 a.m. Mass in Ashford

9:30 a.m. Mass in Glenealy

11:00 a.m. Mass in Ashford

11:30 a.m. Mass in Glenealy

Sunday 26th Dec. 11:00 a.m. Mass in Ashford

11:30 a.m. Mass in Glenealy

Monday 27th Dec. until Friday 31st Dec.

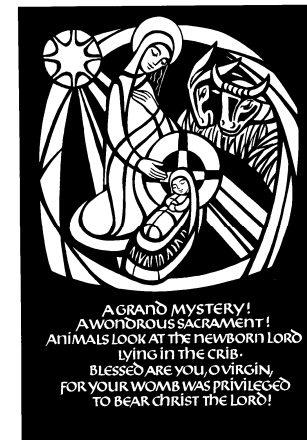
Mass at 10:00 a.m. in Ashford

Saturday 1st January 6:00 p.m. Mass in Ashford

Sunday 2nd January 9:30 a.m. Mass in Glenealy

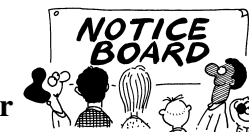
11:00 a.m. Mass in Ashford

Monday 3rd January 10:00 a.m. Mass in Ashford



LAST NEWSLETTER UNTIL THE NEW YEAR

Please note that this is the last parish newsletter this year. The next one will be published on the weekend of the 15th and 16th of January 2011.



PENITENTIAL SERVICES IN NEIGHBOURING PARISHES

Rathdrum: Monday 20th December

Wicklow: Tuesday 21st December.

Arklow: Wednesday 22nd December

As far as we know all services are at 8:00p.m. but please check with the parish beforehand.



THE WORK IN ASHFORD CHURCH

Some people have expressed alarm that moisture is seeping through some of the new paint work in Ashford church. We would like to reassure them that the remedial work is not yet complete. The contractors SKYLINE together with the Dublin Diocesan Buildings committee have agreed a plan of work that will commence in March/April of next year when it is hoped that the areas involved will be dry enough to repaint them. SKYLINE has only been paid for the work carried out to the satisfaction of the Dublin Diocesan Buildings Committee.

