

For Masses
Next Weekend



Readers



Eucharistic
Ministers

Ashford

Vigil -6:00 pm

Margaret Stephens 1st Ps
Brendan Devine 2nd GA

Sister Valery
Ray Kinsella

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Fintan Fanning 1st Ga
Dick Fitzpatrick 2nd GA

Teresa Bourke
Ronnie Connolly

Glenealy

Vigil-7:30 pm

Fionat Doyle

Pat Ferguson

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Gillian Hick

Phillip Carroll



Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

www.ashfordparish.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent



LEAPING FOR JOY

As soon as Mary found out that her cousin Elizabeth was expecting a baby she set out to go and visit her in the hill country. And we know that as Mary greeted Elizabeth the child in Elizabeth's womb, the future John the Baptist, leapt for joy.

Bringing a child into the world at any time is beset with challenges, but for the two pregnant women in Judah there was much more at stake. Mary had already had to come to terms with the fact that her child was not Joseph's son, and Elizabeth's husband Zachary had been struck dumb for not believing that his child would be special. Yet the words Elizabeth chooses to use of Mary are not words of sympathy but of joy and praise: "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary and Elizabeth were open to the future and were able to trust in God's providence for them both, come what may. They saw the birth of their children not as a burden but as an opportunity to praise God for what he promised for their future.

Christmas is an invitation to us to allow God to be born in us once more, to become open to the endless possibilities that God can provide in our lives. Our ability to celebrate the heart of Christmas is linked with our ability to invite God fully into our lives, to ask God to be reborn in us and to work his wonders in whatever way he sees fit.

When we think of Christmas we don't remain in the past; we call God here and now into our lives and ask him to lead us in all the future adventures of life, for Christmas celebrates life itself. The manger scene is nice and comforting, but our liturgy today challenges us to go much further: to let the Christ-child be born in each of us and to bring good news to our waiting world.

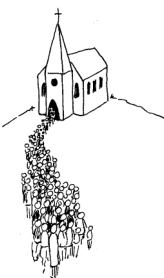
Are we ready to go beyond the mistletoe and tinsel, to become pregnant with God's word, to bear Christ to others? Do we approach Christmas with fear and trembling or do we leap for joy?

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory:	€ 895
SVP:	€ 6261
Planned Giving:	€ 455
Maint. & Devel	€ 75

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

- Ashford Dec 21st 9am Special Intention
- Ashford Dec 22nd 9 am Special Intention
- Ashford Dec 23rd 9am Special Intention
- Ashford Dec 24th Christmas Vigil 9pm Christmas Mass Intentions
- Ashford Dec 25th 9 am Christmas Mass Intentions
- Ashford Dec 25th 11 am Christmas Mass Intentions
- Ashford Saturday Dec 26th Vigil Eileen & Dan Kerrigan
- Ashford Sunday Dec 27th 11:00 am Thomas Lyng
- Glenealy Christmas Vigil 7:30 pm Christmas Mass Intentions
- Glenealy Dec 25th 9:30 Christmas Mass Intentions
- Glenealy Dec 25th 11:30 Christmas mass Intentions
- Glenealy Dec 26 th Vigil Mass Bob Douglas
- Glenealy Dec 27th 11:00 Denis , Jane & John Kavanagh



MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve:

Glenealy 7:30 p.m.

Ashford 9:00 p.m.



Christmas Day:

Ashford: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Glenealy 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

TEA AND BISCUITS THIS SUNDAY AFTER THE 11:00 MASS IN THE SCHOOL

Our monthly get together after 11:00 Mass takes place this Sunday Dec. 20th in the school. All are welcome



Parish Information

Fr. Kevin Rowan Adm.
Telephone: 0404 40540
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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. 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS PLANNING



There will be a short planning meeting to prepare the masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This will take place over the tea and coffee in the school today Sunday the 20th December. So if you would like to volunteer your services as an usher, collector, reader, minister of the Eucharist or if you have ideas or suggestions on how we can better celebrate our Christmas Mass. Please drop along, all are welcome.

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.

GLENEALY'S X FACTOR



The Parents Association of St Joseph's N.S. Glenealy are staging a show called Glenealy's X Factor in the Community Hall this Sunday 20th December at 4.30pm. A great evenings fun is guaranteed. All are welcome

The Annual Collection for St. Vincent de Paul



The Annual St. Vincent de Paul Collection raised a magnificent €6,261 for which the Society is extremely grateful.



ASHFORD ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE

On Tuesday Dec 22nd there will be Adult choir practice in Ashford Church at 7:30 pm.

New members very welcome!!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES AND CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION

A very big thank you to all who assisted with this years distribution of the Christmas Schedules and Calendars. These have been hand delivered to all parishioners who have registered on our parish data base. Should anyone who did submit their family details and has not received an envelope, please let Fr. Kevin know so that the details might be reviewed etc.

For other parishioners, Mass schedules, New year calendars and Christmas Envelopes are available at the Church doors. You are welcome to take these and as well to bring them to any parishioner you might know who is house bound.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



The Sacrament will be offered in both Churches prior to Christmas.

In Ashford on Saturday Dec 19th before 6 pm Mass and in Glenealy before 7:30 pm Mass

On Thursday Dec 24th in Ashford and Glenealy from 12:00 noon to 12:30

There will be Penitential Services in Rathdrum Parish on Monday 21st Dec at 8:00 p.m., Wicklow Parish on Tuesday 22nd Dec. at 8:00 p.m. and in Arklow Parish on Wednesday 23rd Dec. at 8:00 p.m.

Please Note that there will be no Newsletter for the next two weeks. We take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.