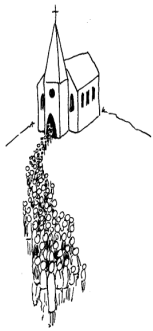


MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK



Ashford Mon Dec 19th:00 am Jane Moody
 Ashford Tues Dec 20 th 9:00 am Eileen McHugh
 Ashford Wed. Dec 21st 9:00 am. Eileen Quinn
 Ashford Thurs Dec 22nd 9:00 am –Mary Quinn
 Ashford Friday Dec 23rd No Mass
 Saturday Dec 24th Vigil Mass 8 pm Christmas Mass Intentions
 Glenealy Dec 24th 6:30 Christmas Mass Intentions
 Ashford Sunday Dec 25th Ashford 8:00 am Christmas Mass Intentions
 Glenealy Dec 25th 9:30 Christmas Mass Intentions
 Ashford Dec 25th 11:00 am Christmas Mass Intentions

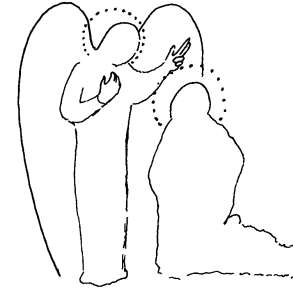


Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

Fourth Sunday of Advent

THE MODEL

Someone once said that the ideal model of Mary, her statue or painting, would show her looking just like one of us, and with her hands outstretched. In one hand she would be cradling the infant Jesus and in the other she would be holding a church.



Some people make too many claims for Mary and they end up idolising and demeaning her. Others are so reticent to see anything in her that they fail to see the great compliment that God is paying their human nature.

But the statue or painting with outstretched hands shows us why Mary is important. Everything the Church claims for Mary relates to what she holds in those hands.

Mary, as today's gospel attests, is the bearer of Christ. In fact, one of her oldest titles proclaims her to be the Mother of God. She is honoured because, through her readiness to allow the Holy Spirit to work in her, the Christ was born into our world and the plan of God came to its fulfilment. Her "fiat" or "yes" to God meant that she dedicated her life to preparing the way for the Lord. That's why she is hailed as the most honoured of all God's creatures. She was not some sort of super being. She was just like us, with all the fear and doubt and perplexity. But she was open to whatever God wanted of her.



And in the other hand she holds a church. We are the Church: the community of those who are baptised into Christ's death and resurrection and who seek to respond in faith. Mary, in a certain sense, could be said to be the first member of the Church and is often referred to as Mother of the Church. Like her we have to be ready and on the lookout for whatever it is that God asks of us at the various stages of our lives. We may find it troublesome, we may fear the consequences of saying yes to God, but we are invited to take Mary as the model of how we as the Church should trustingly respond to God's call.

READERS OF THE WORD AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS – FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

Next weekend is Christmas, ; this year we have not pre-assigned readers or Eucharistic ministers for the various masses and so require help.

We therefore ask the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers who are available to come forward with an offer to help out.

Christmas Vigil 2 Readers and 3 Eucharistic Ministers

8 am 2 Readers and 2 Eucharistic Minister

11 am 2 Readers and 3 Eucharistic Ministers

Please let Brendan know as soon as possible if you can assist at any of our celebrations. Many thanks in advance for your support!



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.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory: € 855

SVP € 4425

Planned Giving:€ 625

Maint. & Devel € 85

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.



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.**



PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD,
SMOOTHEN THE PATH FOR OUR GOD

TIMES FOR RECONCILIATION THE SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS

Saturday 24th 11:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon

Confessions in Glenealy

Saturday 24th 1:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Confessions Ashford



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.



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 TIMES THIS WEEK

Mass times this week Monday until Thursday will be at 9:00 a.m. in Ashford please note there will be no 9:00 a.m. mass on Friday morning.

CHRISTMAS MAILING AND CALENDAR

Some people have said that they have not received the calendar and Christmas schedule despite being on the mailing list in previous years this may have happened when we upgraded the software on the computer. However spare copies of the calendar and schedule are available in the church please take one and if you are one of the people whose name was taken off our system please let us know and we will include you for future mailings.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FUNDRAISER (WINTER FUEL APPEAL)

The Wicklow Coral Society along with the Kelly Family Ensemble will present an evening of Christmas Carols for all the family at the Fatima Hall Dominican College Wicklow on Dec.18th at 3 pm.

Admission is Adult€ 10 Family €25 OAP/Students €5 with tickets available at Earls Photo Shop Wicklow, from any member of Svp or at the door!

An afternoon of warm Christmas music to raise funds to help those who face difficult winter days!



ASHFORD SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY PLAY

Will take place in the church on Monday 19th December at 12:15 p.m.



A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY.

Many thanks to all who responded so generously to our annual appeal a magnificent €4,425 was collected in Ashford and Glenealy Parish. Thank you.