

For Masses  
Next Weekend



Readers



Eucharistic  
Ministers

**Ashford**

Deirdre McMahon  
Joe Kavanagh

Donal Dunne  
Sr.Mary

Dick Fitzpatrick  
Fintan Fanning

Teresa Bourke  
Ronnie Connolly

**Glenealy**

Margaret O'Neill

Marian Carroll

Vigil –6:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.



# Welcome to The Parish of Ashford & Glenealy

www.ashfordparish.com  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

## PARTY MOOD



**W**hen the prodigal son came home they held a party to celebrate the fact that he was part of the fold once more. But there was an empty seat at the party; the older brother refused to come and take part. The liturgy, and especially the Mass, is the continuation of that party and festivity. At the Eucharist we celebrate the fact that in Jesus Christ we have been

redeemed and forgiven, that we are already experiencing a share in the eternal life that God has promised us and that one day we will enjoy seeing God face to face in the never-ending celebration of bliss and happiness in heaven. In the meantime we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus Christ that was given up and shed for us so that sins may be forgiven.

As you sit in your pew in church, are there any empty seats? It would be surprising if there weren't! Most churches struggle to fill their seats except at the great feasts of the year.

Who belongs in those seats? It's tempting to say that they are older brothers' seats, people who have had some sort of gripe with the church and have decided to give Sunday worship a wide berth. To an extent this is true. We are a fallible group of people and we're quite capable of failing each other at crucial times, and of even putting off people to the extent that they no longer darken our doors. What would happen if we reached out to family and neighbours, to friends who feel that the Church has failed them? Is it worth taking the risk of inviting them to the feast, or should we just write them off as a dead loss? Would it shock us if they said yes?



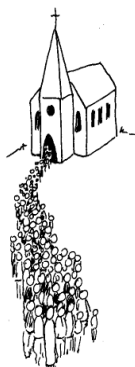
And what about the person who's sitting in your seat? Yes, you. Are you the life and soul of the party or are you something of a party-pooper? We never find out whether the father finally managed to get the older brother to enter into the spirit. He could have just gone and sat there with a long face. Just turning up isn't enough. Are you glad to be able to celebrate with your whole being, singing and praying, giving thanks for the forgiveness that God has lavished upon you through no merit of your own? Or should we put the fatted calf on the back burner?

### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Offertory:	€ 1035
Share	€ 610
Planned Giving:	€ 595
Maint. & Devel	€ 255

### MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK MARCH 15TH-21ST

- Ashford March 15th 9am No Intention
- Ashford March 16th 9 am A Special Intention
- Glenealy March 16th 10 am No Intention
- Ashford March 16 St.Patrick's Day Vigil 6pm No Intention
- Glenealy St.Patrick's Day 9:30 No intention
- Ashford March 17th St.Patrick's Alick Doyle
- Ashford March 18th 9am No Intention
- Glenealy March 18th 10am No Intention
- Ashford March 19th 9 am - No Intention
- Ashford Saturday Vigil Cecil Devine
- Ashford Sunday March 21st 11:00 am Ned Byrne
- Glenealy Sunday March 21st 9:30 am



### ADVANCE NOTICE PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR LENT

The Parish celebration of the Sacrament of Forgiveness will take place in Ashford church on Wednesday the 24th of March at 7:30 p.m. We encourage you to use this opportunity to celebrate the sacrament before Easter.



### MASS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY MARCH 17TH

Wednesday is St. Patrick's Day; a Holy Day and National Holiday. Mass Times on the day will be the same as a Sunday

**Masses are:**

**Glenealy, Wednesday 9:30 am.**

**Ashford 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday and at 11:00 a.m.**

## 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 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.

## RECENT BAPTISMS



**O**n Sunday March 7th there were five baptisms celebrated in Ashford Church. Fr. Edward was and the celebrant who

baptised **Kale & Sam Conyard, Dan Connors, Alexandra Bruce-Tanakloe, Louis O’Neill.**

We extend to their parents and relatives our congratulations on the very happy occasion.

## TAG ALONG

The day was a tremendous success and our compliments to the organizers and participants. It was a very well attended event which showed the tremendous spirit that exists amongst us! We won't mention winners or losers, because on a day like this everyone's a winner!!!

**Well done indeed!**



## MASS TIMES HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

**Holy Thursday: 1st of April**

**Mass at 7:30 p.m. in both Churches**

**Good Friday: 2nd April**

**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: 3rd April,**

**Vigil in Glenealy at 7:30 p.m.**

**Vigil in Ashford at 9:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday 3rd April**

**Mass in Ashford at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Mass in Glenealy at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.**



## MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As we approach this Easter season, a number of events have to be organized. The first is the delivery of Easter greetings which this year includes a copy of the St. Luke's Gospel. We hope to use the same approach as was used Christmas , that being parishioners delivering to specific areas around the parish.

The envelopes will be available for delivery from Tuesday next March 16th. So we are requesting that any parishioner who can help , to attend a short meeting in Ashford Church on Tuesday evening after St.Patrick's Day vigil mass 6:45 pm. The envelopes will be sorted by area which should assist in distribution.

*Please take a moment to contribute of your time in taking on some of the responsibility . Many hands make light work!!!*

## CELEBRATION OF FIRST PENANCE FOR ASHFORD SCHOOL



**T**he children from Ashford school will celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness for the first time on Monday the 15th of March at 7:30 p.m. in Ashford Church. We ask that you keep them in your prayers during the coming week. The First Holy Communion will be celebrated in Ashford church on Saturday 8th of May.



## ASHFORD CHOIR

**A**s we begin to focus on Easter we also begin to focus on the celebration of the season in music and song! In preparing for Easter, the adult choir in Ashford welcome all who would like to take part. The practices will commence on Tuesday March 23rd in the Church beginning at 7:30p.m. If you wish to join please come along on the night or as well you might make contact with Peter O’Hanlon to let him know of your interest– 0404 40615.

## TREMENDOUS !!



**T**he Ashford Children's Choir took part in the Arklow Music Festival last Sunday 7th in front of a huge crowd that turned out to see all seven choirs compete. Choirs came from Gorey, Avoca, Templerainey, Arklow, Baltinglass and Bearna Chle. Ashford Choir were awarded a very high 83% and were complimented on their great energy, discipline and attention. For their first time in competition this was an amazing result. Well done to all the children and to their parents for their great support and turn out on the day.