

# ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

RCN 20016166



### *Gospel Reflections Advent Reminds Us God is Near Donal Neary SJ*

A poet wrote: *"when I am an old woman I shall wear purple"*, to remind her that life can be different day by day or that she might be personally noticed and change her life. This time of the year the Church wears purple and we remind ourselves that **J**esus is near, that life can be different and that we can change our lives.

The gospel from **J**ohn the Baptist encourages a change in our lives. We would look on ourselves and regret what we should regret - our sins, our meanness, our minor faults and failings, our injustices and hurt of others. In his time the people would immerse themselves in the river and be forgiven. We can immerse ourselves in the healing and forgiving love of God in many ways, including the sacrament of reconciliation (penance, confession). We can immerse ourselves in the mood of waiting for Christmas, and take this on the spiritual level and well as the ordinary. **A**ll of the weeks of **A**dvent can be a preparation for the way of the Lord, which we will hear of during the readings of the coming year. This is a time of joyful waiting, knowing we cannot be let down. The purple of **A**dvent is not the purple of mourning but of joyful anticipation - like when we dress in the football team's colours early in the morning to look forward to a match.

If we take time for the spiritual preparation with soe prayer, sacraments (maybe go to Mass once or twice a week, or daily for Advent), and if we help our neighbour a bit more than usual, then nothing of all the preparations can be just secular. Everything of this month can remind us of God... trees, lights, carols, parties, Santa hats, cards, gift-buying - all reminders that God is near.

*Give us this day our daily bread and daily truth, Lord God.*



## ASHFORD & GLENEALY ~ PARISH - CONTACTS

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PARISH OFFICE WICKLOW 0404 -61699

Office opening times Monday - Friday: 10am - 12.30pm

**For all enquires and bookings**

	This week we remember	Next week we remember
<b>SATURDAY</b> 6.00pm ASHFORD	Michael Behan Thomas & Rosanna Boyce Seamus Darcy (A)	Paul Maguire (1st A)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 10.30am GLENEALY	Martin, Jane, John and Teresa Driver (Anniversaries)	

## ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

### 1st December 2024

**ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION** - goes towards maintaining our parish - € 400  
**1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND** - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese - € 340  
**2ND COLLECTION / SHARE FUND** - goes towards Diocesan Administration € 405  
**MAINTENANCE** - goes towards Parish upkeep - € 0

*Many thanks for your continued support.*

## NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

To reflect on the readings please check  
[catholicireland.net](http://catholicireland.net) / [sacredspace.ie](http://sacredspace.ie) / [universalis.com](http://universalis.com)

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18**

**PSALM: Isaiah 12**

**SECOND READING: 1Philippians 4:4-7**

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18**

## Baptism in the St. Mantan Pastoral Area

Wicklow	First Saturday	2pm
	Third Sunday	1pm
Rathnew	Fourth Saturday	2pm
Ashford	First Sunday	12 noon
Glenealy	Third Saturday	12 noon
BBK	Second Saturday	2pm

**Next Ashford Meeting is on 19th December at 7:30pm in the Church. Please ring the Parish Office (0404-61699) to confirm your attendance at this meeting.**



## ASHFORD COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DRAW 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Tickets available in Margaret's Hair Salon, Classic Cuts, the Hub & The Hen & Hog Ashford & from any committee member

1 <sup>st</sup>	€500
2 <sup>nd</sup>	€350
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hen & Hog Voucher €150
4 <sup>th</sup>	€150
5 <sup>th</sup>	Roundwood Stores/Coach House Voucher €100
6 <sup>th</sup>	Single bed quilt, Handcrafted by Mary's Quilts & Quilting
7 <sup>th</sup>	Rug from Martsworth 5ft 7 x 4ft
8 <sup>th</sup>	2 driving lessons Nigel Evans
9 <sup>th</sup>	€50 voucher for N11
10 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon tea for 2 in Hunters Hotel
11 <sup>th</sup>	€50
12 <sup>th</sup>	€25 voucher Dowling's Butchers



*Christmas Joy With...*

**WICKLOW SINGERS**

Musical Directors: Frank Kelly and Rebecca Kelly

Bumper raffle of hampers

Proceeds go to "Meals on Wheels Wicklow"

Tickets available at the door, from choir members or at:  
Haughton Legal, SuperValu Shopping Centre

FRIDAY | 13 | DECEMBER  
AT 07:30 PM | TICKETS: €10  
St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow

## ASHFORD COMMUNITY GROUP

Providing support & a social outlet for older people  
DRAW RESULTS November 2024

		Winner	Seller
1 <sup>st</sup>	€300	David Grant	Oona McKiernan
2 <sup>nd</sup>	€150	Oscar	Mary O'Brien
3 <sup>rd</sup>	€100	Bridie Healy	Ann Lyons
4 <sup>th</sup>	€50	Breda Keogh	Catherine Barrett

## World Peace

We pray for peace in our hearts, in our homes, in our community and in our troubled world, especially in the Middle East and in Ukraine. We pray for those who are suffering, displaced and fearful because of war. Make us instruments of your peace and messengers of hope to those who are troubled.

## ICA Ashford Christmas

### Sale of Work

in Aid of



SUPPORTING FAMILIES FIGHTING CHILDHOOD CANCER

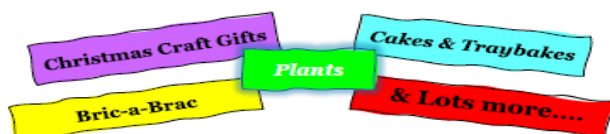
"Helping families fighting childhood cancer who need to travel overseas for specialist cancer treatment that is not available in Ireland. The Gavin Glynn Foundation arrange all logistics and cover all costs associated with:  
-Transportation (eg. Flights, Car Hire).

- Transportation to and from the designated Airports. • Accommodation within, or close to the designated medical centre. • Food and living expenses for the duration of the child's treatment while abroad."

**Saturday 7 December 2024**

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Methodist Hall, Wicklow Town**  
(opposite Holy Rosary National School)



## Advent Prayer Service

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the area pastoral parish council invites you to an Advent Prayer Service which will take place on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in St. Brigid's Church, Kilbride.**

It is an opportunity for us to reflect on how well prepared we are, not only to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord at Christmas, but to live the kind of life we are meant to live, loving one another as much as we are loved.

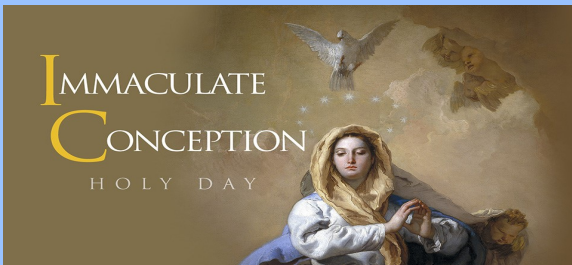
This invitation is extended to all parishioners, but in particular children and young adults in our respective parishes.



## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The feast day will be celebrated on Monday, 9th December. The Masses for the Holy Day are as follows:

Wicklow 10.00am  
Ashford 10.00am  
Rathnew 7.00pm  
Barndarrig 7.30pm



## Wicklow/Ashford Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The death of a loved one is very devastating. Most of us are not prepared for the long journey of grief. At first we don't really believe it. Often by the time the reality hits us our friends and relatives think that we are or should be okay and they go back to their busy lives.

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group is a voluntary parish based ministry which aims to help the bereaved and grieving. Although grieving is a natural process which can be helped by the sympathy and understanding of friends there are times when one needs support to work through it in a positive way. Feelings need to be expressed rather than repressed. It helps the healing process to talk with a trained listener and confront the very strong feelings associated with grief.

Wicklow/Ashford Bethany Bereavement Support Group meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the De La Salle Centre at 8pm and if you are struggling with your grief and think you might like to talk with a trained listener, you are very welcome to attend this meeting. More information from 087 946 8971

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Ashford: 1st Friday after Mass  
Wicklow: Mondays and Thursdays after Mass  
Kilbride: 1st Thursday at 7pm (Divine Mercy)  
Brittas Bay: Tuesdays at 9am



Your contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your parish. If you would like to become a regular contributor to the Parish, please fill in this slip and return to Parish Office or Sacristy

Name.....

Contact Number.....

Address.....  
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LET'S  
APPROACH  
CHRISTMAS  
WITH AN  
EXPECTANT  
HUSH,  
RATHER THAN  
A LAST-  
MINUTE  
RUSH.

Unknown

