

# ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

**22nd December 2024**

**RCN 20016166**



## *Gospel Reflections Sharing and Celebrating Faith Donal Neary SJ*

One of **M**ary's first recorded journeys was after the announcement to her that she was to be the mother of **G**od. It was a journey of service, a visit to her cousin who needed help. When dealing with such challenges as pregnancy bereavement, redundancy, a son in prison, or a daughter on drugs - we want to talk and we want support.

**M**ary and **E**lizabeth had something else to share - their faith. The prayers they said have been said ever since. The stage was small but the audience has been millions ever since. They were not shy about their faith in their **G**od.

In a time like ours we need to externalise our faith - to go to Church, send a card with a Christmas greeting, not just a season's wish - not to parade, but to make present our faith.

The meaning this week is - *Jesus is born, and we celebrate that together*, with thanks, music, socialising, prayer and Mass. We need to find **G**od again, and let ourselves be open to him in the deepest areas of life, just like both these women, **M**ary and **E**lizabeth, and their spouses **J**oseph and **Z**echariah were open to **G**od promptings.

Nothing need keep us from **G**od or from the crib at **C**hristmas.  
All are welcome.

The real meaning of **C**hristmas is to meet with **G**od and to help our neighbour.

*Come Lord Jesus and bring joy and laughter among us.  
Come with , the music of eternity and the songs of the earth.  
Come among us and make us truly grateful for your birth and your love.*



*Sincere sympathies to the family of*

*Debbie Finn, Glenealy*



	This week we remember	Next week we remember
<b>SATURDAY</b> 6.00pm ASHFORD	Ronnie and Terri Connolly, Seamus Darcy, Freddy McGowan	
<b>SUNDAY</b> 10.30am GLENEALY		

## ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

### 15th December 2024

<b>ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION</b>	- goes towards maintaining our parish	- € 195
<b>1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND</b>	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	- € 15
<b>2ND COLLECTION / SHARE FUND</b>	- goes towards Diocesan Administration	- € 5
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>	- goes towards Parish upkeep	- € 80

*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: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28**

**PSALM: 83**

**SECOND READING: 1John 3:1-2, 21-24**

**GOSPEL : Luke 2:41-52**

### 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 23rd January at 7:30pm in the Church.

Please ring the Parish Office (0404-61699) to confirm your attendance at this meeting.

## ASHFORD & GLENEALY ~ PARISH - CONTACTS

FR EAMONN CROSSON  
0404 40540

[www.stmantan.ie](http://www.stmantan.ie)  
[parishofficewicklow@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficewicklow@gmail.com)

PARISH OFFICE WICKLOW  
0404 -61699

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

**For all enquires and bookings**

## Christmas Newsletter 2024

### Let Peace Flourish

There is something very special about this time of year. It stirs up in us something very deep inside us. Despite all the problems of our world, we are brought back to the things that really matter. Our thoughts often go back to former Christmas times and to the people who loved and nurtured us. This is a time to give thanks for them and to treasure those around us. At the darkest time of the year, a light of Hope is given to us. That light is God, who loves us profoundly and who came and lived among us. As we celebrate his birth, we are once again reminded of who we are, created in God's image and likeness.

God has high hopes for each one of us because he sees in us what we can be.

This Christmas, I am thinking about the people of Palestine as they try to survive amongst the rubble of what was their country. This past year we have seen atrocities committed that are hard to understand in 2024. One wonders how those responsible can sleep at night, given the cold and calculated murder of Men, Women and Children in their thousands. In so many parts of the world, it is often the innocent who suffer amidst terrible injustices. We are called this Christmas to pray for peace and stability in our world and an end to war. God became Human in order to reveal to us who we are and the great potential that we have to love. That message is as fresh today as it was over two thousand years ago.

Over the last few years, we have been on a journey as a partnership of three parishes. It has been a good experience to try to work together. I would like to express my thanks to all the people of the three parishes for your support and love of your parish. We are on a journey, even though we do not know where that journey will ultimately take us. But that is how it is for all who are born of the Spirit. We know that we are being guided by the Spirit and we have entrusted that journey to God.

I would like to express my thanks to all the staff of the parishes and volunteers who make the parishes alive and vibrant. The parishes could not exist without you. What you do is much appreciated. A special thank you to Fr Gerard and Fr Eamonn. May the wonder and love of God touch your hearts this Christmas. May I wish you a peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the journey of 2025.

Fr Aquinas Duffy



# ASHFORD COMMUNITY GROUP CHRISTMAS DRAW

	December 2024 Draw	Winner	Ticket seller
1 <sup>st</sup>	€500	Ben & Brodie Byrne	Ann Byrne
2 <sup>nd</sup>	€350	Alan Murphy	Ann Byrne
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hen & Hog voucher €150	Breda Keogh	Catherine Barrett
4 <sup>th</sup>	€150	Ann Staunton	Catherine Barrett
5 <sup>th</sup>	Roundwood Stores/Coach House Voucher €100	Babs Byrne	Phyllis Armstrong
6 <sup>th</sup>	Single bed hand crafted quilt by Mary's Quilts & Quilting	Helen Driver	Catherine Barrett
7 <sup>th</sup>	Martsworth Rug	Brid White	Phyllis Armstrong
8 <sup>th</sup>	Nigel Evans driving lessons	Mona Kinlan	Ann Lyons
9 <sup>th</sup>	€50 N11 voucher	Simon Marah	Simon Marah
10 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon tea for two in Hunters	Margaret Behan	Ann Lyons
11 <sup>th</sup>	€50	Jackie Roche	Jackie Roche
12 <sup>th</sup>	€25 voucher for Dowling's butchers Ashford	Brendan Byrne	Phyllis Armstrong

**Ashford Community Group thank all our prize sponsors & everyone who bought thicketts. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated. We wish you all a very happy Christmas & New year.**

## Confessions

### Ashford:

Tuesday (Christmas Eve),  
24 December: 10.00 – 10.30am

### Glenealy:

Tuesday (Christmas Eve),  
24 December: 11.00 – 11.30am

## TAP & GO

During the month of November 2024 the Tap and Go machines in Ashford Parish collected €220.00 from 22 transactions.

This is split 60% to the Common Fund and 40% to Share.

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.....

*“Faith is salted and peppered through everything at Christmas. And I love at least one night by the Christmas tree to sing and feel the quiet holiness of that time that's set apart to celebrate love, friendship, and God's gift of the Christ child.”*

— AMY GRANT

