

Fr Donal Neary, S.J ~Gospel Reflections for the Year B.

Annunciations Big and Small

I got stuck miles away in a small village and had no public transport. There was a public holiday so I had to stay put. A family put me up for the night and fed me! This was an annunciation for me! Annunciations announce the coming of the Lord, favour from God. Life is full of little and big annunciations. Ways in which we bring the Son of God alive within the world. The beginning now of what would later be the resurrection event.

For Mary it was in the ordinary – maybe at the well, as she collected the water for the day. Or in her house. Any time we find genuine help, compassion, justice, all the gifts of God's Spirit, then this is annunciation. It can be an annunciation of new faith and love in God. What Mary got at annunciation was the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit and the Son of God in her womb.

We are the people who find grace and hope in the middle of everything. Maybe like in a busy shop, the middle of a bus journey, and with the children and the friends and the family, at Mass or prayer. It can happen anywhere.

There is always a response. If we have been gifted, we give. Someone let me out of the carpark and I let the next person out. Someone visited me in hospital and I did the same later. Our Christmas way of celebration and helping others is a response.

Don't ask how did you get over the Christmas, but did Christmas get into you! Let the big mystery of God's love get deeply into us this time of year.

***Remember when you felt close to God's presence
in your life and give thanks.
Welcome, Lord Jesus.***

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.....

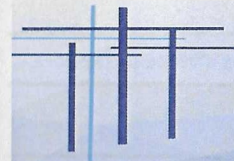
Contact Number.....

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*May God bless you
with
Joy, Peace, and Love
on this
Christmas.*



ShortStatusQuotes.com



ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year B

RCN 20016166



	This week we remember	Next week we remember
SATURDAY 6.00pm ASHFORD	Peter Kavanagh - Months Mind Seamus Grant	
SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY	Robert Douglas	

World Peace

Our thoughts are with the suffering people of the Middle East and Ukraine. We pray that peace will come to these troubled lands. Remember those who are suffering, displaced and fearful because of war. Enlighten world leaders; make them wise in their decisions. Make all of us instruments of your peace.



Confirmation and First Eucharist

We keep in our prayers those who are preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist at this time.

The Pope's Intention for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

17th December 2023

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION	- goes towards maintaining our parish	- €230
1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	- €505
2ND COLLECTION / SHARE	- goes towards Diocesan Administration	- €455
MAINTENANCE	- goes towards Parish upkeep	- € 75

Many thanks for your continued support.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

To reflect on the readings please check
catholicireland.net / sacredspace.ie / universalis.com

First Reading : Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Psalm : 104

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Christmas Services

Mass Times (Ashford)

Saturday, 23 December – Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Sunday (Christmas Eve) – 6.00pm

Monday (Christmas Day) – 12.00 (Noon)

Mass Times (Glenealy)

Sunday (Christmas Eve) – 10.30am

Monday (Christmas Day) – 10.30am

Confessions

Ashford: Saturday, 23 December: 10.00 – 10.30am

Glenealy: Saturday, 23 December: 11.00 – 11.30am

Penitential Services

Monday, 18 December: Wicklow – 7.30pm

Tuesday, 19 December: Rathdrum – 7.30pm

Wednesday, 20 December: Arklow – 7.30pm

**Full schedule for the area is available
at the Church doors**

Here are some useful Apps to help with prayer and meditation. They are available from the App Store on your phone or other device:-

Pray As You Go - Daily Prayer

This is a lifestyle app which can be downloaded for free. For the past 16 years this app has provided a daily journey and encounter with God for millions of people around the world. It will support your prayer life each day with a short contemplative prayer session and an invitation to go deeper with other prayer tools, series, retreats and resources. It lasts between 10 and 13 minutes and combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.

Universalis

This app helps you to follow the Mass each day. The "Mass Today" page merges the Order of Mass with the Readings and Prayers for the day, so you can follow the Mass right through without having to jump here and there through a missal. It costs approximately €12.

NEW BOXES OF PARISH ENVELOPES

The new boxes of envelopes are now ready for collection from the Churches.

Please note that we are updating the Parish system so numbers have now changed. This will be reflected on the Pastoral Management package that the diocese recommend. If anyone is missing a box of envelopes - we apologise - please ring the Parish Office in Wicklow on 61699 and we will forward you a box of envelopes as soon as possible. If you would like to receive a box and contribute to the upkeep of the parish, we would be happy to help you out with your request. It is also possible to donate by Standing Order and again we are happy to go through the process with you.

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