

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.

## Ashford National School

Christmas Fair – 12.00-4.00pm  
on Sunday, 3 December

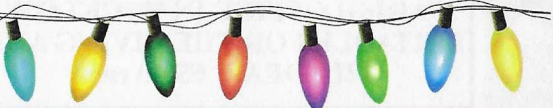
Ashford National School's Christmas Fair will take place in the school on Sunday, 3 December from 12.00 – 4.00pm. Please come along to do your Christmas shopping and support this very worthy cause.



## Christmas Craft Fair in Glenealy Village Hall on Sunday, 3 December

Christmas Craft Fair in Glenealy Village Hall on Sunday, 3 December from 11.30am – 3.30pm. Come along and join in the festive fun with something for everyone.

Tickets for the Monster Raffle are on sale now with lots of great prizes. Tickets are €2 each or €5 for a book of three. The draw will take place in Glenealy Hall at 3.00pm on Sunday, 3 December



## Christmas Tractor Run – Cooley Farm, Glenealy on Sunday, 10 Dec.



Tractor Run in aid of Wicklow Cancer Support will take place at Cooley Farm, Glenealy (A67 VE42) on Sunday, 10 December. Arrive at 1.30pm. Raffle at 3pm. Tractors, Trucks & Vintage Cars – all are welcome. Raffle and Prizes Best Dressed Vehicle.



See Facebook and Instagram for further information.

### One day it just clicks.

You realize what's important and what isn't. You learn to care less about what other people think of you and more about what you think of yourself. You realize how far you've come and you remember when you thought things were such a mess that you would never recover. And you smile. You smile because you are truly proud of yourself and the person you've fought to become.

tinybuddha.com

# ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3rd December 2023

First Sunday of Advent ~ Year B

RCN 20016166

## Gospel Reflections for the Year of Matthew - Donal Neary

### The Invitation

I like these words of the late Cardinal Hume: "There are times when I can visualize Our Lord at the break of day standing by my bed and saying: "Get up, follow me." Whether I am conscious of it or not, in effect that invitation, that loving but insistent command, is given to me every day. Each new morning is the opportunity to start again. Yesterday there may have been inadequacies and failures but today Christ renews his call: "Follow me. I have chosen you. I need you." Who can fail to respond to the thought that God needs our willing collaboration."

We are carers of creation and of his people. Take this seriously, it is our world. God has made himself so vulnerable and this gospel reading is just before the passion. An area or parish improves if enough people do something. We look at areas in a locality which are now clean of drugs, more prosperous and just. This has been the work of people co-creating the world with God. Making it a better place. Doing the world a world of good.

Gospel today says – Don't give up. God is always near! Live in hope and preparation. Stay awake to the season – the ways we can deepen and grow in our faith - maybe do a retreat, do something good for others with your time or finance, notice God in the events of the next few weeks, pray a bit every day, make time to be awakened to the centre of our world who is God, and to his central action in creating the world each day, sending Jesus Christ his Son.



*A question for the first week of Advent:*

*How can I help someone today?*

*Lord, send me, use me, create me for your work in the world.*

## 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
SATURDAY 6.00pm ASHFORD	Tyron McNabb (Month's Mind)	Paddy Andrews
SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY	John Johnson- 1st Anniversary John O'Brien, John Cullen, Kevin Alcorn	Rob Douglas, Martin, Jane, John & Teresa Driver

### 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 26th November 2023

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION	- goes towards maintaining our parish	- € 160
1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	- € 525
2ND COLLECTION / SHARE	- goes towards Diocesan Administration	- € 460
MAINTENANCE	- goes towards Parish upkeep	- € 70

*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 : Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm : 84

Second : 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel : Mark 1: 1-8



Society of St Vincent de Paul



This year's Annual Appeal is focused on providing help to struggling parents who wonder how they will provide a Happy Christmas for their families. The campaign is entitled "The Wonder of Christmas" and subtitled "Will we have Christmas at all".

The Annual Christmas collection for the St Vincent De Paul will be held on the weekend of the 9th/10th December - it will replace the normal SHARE collection in all Churches. Your support for the Society is always very much appreciated but especially at this time of year with so many needy cases all around us.

### Thank You to all our Volunteers!

*As we celebrate*

### National Volunteer Day

*on Tuesday 5th December*

*We want to thank all the volunteers in all the churches, who continuously lend a hand and work so hard to make our parishes so vibrant and welcoming.*

*"Volunteers aren't paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!"*

THANK YOU FOR BUILDING HOPE  
IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY.

### 8th December FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

#### THURSDAY 7th - VIGIL MASSES

St Patrick's Wicklow at 7.00pm  
St Mary's Barndarrig at 7.30pm  
St Joseph's Glenealy at 7.30pm

#### FRIDAY 8th - DAILY MASSES

St Patrick's Wicklow at 10.00am  
St Joseph's Rathnew at 7.00pm  
Most Holy Rosary Ashford at 10.00am

**CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASS  
CARDS AVAILABLE IN THE  
PARISH OFFICE IN WICKLOW,  
SUITABLE FOR THE LIVING AND  
THE DEAD €5.00 each**