

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.

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.....

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.

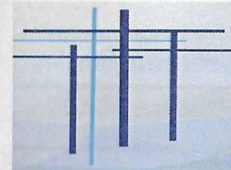
NUBIA GROUP

A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people
and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
GOD'S LOVE, PEACE, HOPE & JOY
To you for the year ahead.

Happy New Year!

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nubia_group/



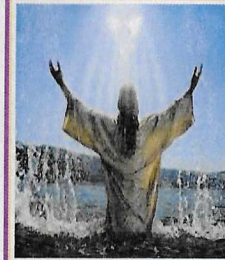
ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

7th January 2024

Baptism of our Lord ~ Year B

RCN 20016166



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

New Energy

Jesus' baptism by John was a special moment - the real coming of God's spirit upon him, the Spirit who had come on Mary at the moment of Jesus' conception, and would be with Jesus at his last moments on the Cross.

The spirit brings him new energy. This feast marks that something new is happening, and that Jesus knows he is the beloved son; from eternity and into time.

The Spirit came upon him - but not just for himself. He would send the Spirit later to us, to help us to forgive and to persevere in doing good.

This is a feast about energy. Jesus found a new spirit in himself after his prayer and he heard words he would never forget. Maybe you have heard words of love from someone you will never forget. They give energy to the heart and soul, making us people always on the go, ready for new life within us.

The spirit pours the energy of God into bread and wine and they are changed forever. He sends himself forever, sending the love and presence and energy of God.

We know that we can get stuck. We need new infusions of the Spirit to give new energy. Can we be the type of people who others think it's good to meet? Can we be people open to the spirit of God, open to new life, new love, and being really fully the individuals we can be?

*Recall your baptism: imagine water being poured over you, and allow this love of God fill you today.
Lord, thank you for the gift of Baptism.*

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	Betty Crean	Paul Maguire - Months Mind
SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY	Special Intention	

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

31st December 2023

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION	- goes towards maintaining our parish	- € 50
1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	- €460
2ND COLLECTION / SHARE	- goes towards Diocesan Administration	- €325
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 : 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

Psalm : 39

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

WHAT ARE THE MASS COLLECTIONS FOR?

THE FIRST COLLECTION/COMMON FUND

The First Collection is also known as the Common Fund. This was set up years ago in order that all priests got a fair share of the collection regardless of the size or wealth of the parish that they are working in. It also supports the priests of the Diocese, who are sick and retired. Christmas/Easter & Summer Dues are lodged directly into this fund. This fund has been declining over the past few years which means that priests incomes have also been declining.

THE SECOND COLLECTION/SHARE

The Share Collection is for the Diocesan building fund which helps to subsidise projects in some very poor parishes. It gives financial assistance to parishes who wouldn't have the necessary income to maintain their buildings. It also funds the central services of the diocese which looks after 199 parishes. The money for this collection is also lodged directly to the Diocese.

THE WEEKLY ENVELOPES & STANDING ORDER / PLANNED GIVING COLLECTION

This collection funds the parish. It pays for the day to day expenses of running the Parish as well as maintaining the Churches, our Parish Centre and the Priests houses. You may contribute to the Parish by weekly envelope, Direct Debit/Standing order or annual donation. If you have thought about contributing to the Parish regularly - please arrange for a box of envelopes or a Direct Debit form to be sent to you by ringing the parish office on 61699.

TAX RELIEF SCHEME

The Tax Relief Scheme for donations to Eligible Charities is of immense benefit to the Parish. It is a very simple but effective way of increasing revenue, whereby the parish can claim back the tax paid on any **recorded contributions** of €250 or more per annum. Many people have already signed up for this and it has made a big difference to parish income. If you have not already done so, perhaps you would consider signing up for it now. Full details are available on the parish website or from the office.

As the church is registered as a charity, any contribution of €250 or more (which is €5 a week), allows the parish to claim back up to 40% of that, which is approx. €100, where applicable. However, we do have to be able to link the donations to a donor which is where the envelopes/ Direct Debit/Standing Orders becomes important. The only information that is required from the contributor is - name, address, PPS number and a signature. Please be assured that any information received will be treated with the of confidence and that there is **NO** involvement at all from any tax officials. If you pay income tax and if you have contributed €250 or more to the **Dues and Family Offering**, the Parish can claim back the tax on your donation at no cost whatsoever to the contributor. Please be assured that the parish staff do not have any access to any personal details of any parishioner signing up to this scheme. It is totally confidential.

Please note that cash placed in the collection baskets does not qualify for Tax Relief as it cannot be traced back to a donor and is therefore added to the Diocesan 1st & 2nd collections.

A sincere thanks to all parishioners who continuously support the parish through their contributions and to those who have signed up to the CHY3 scheme and we look forward to your continued support in the future.