

#### *Donal Neary SJ Gospel Reflections for Year A: Matthew*

In Galilee around the time of Jesus, there was a flourishing fish-ing industry. Peter, James and John were part of it, and they were big-time fishermen. Fish from Galilee went all over the then known empire, and to Rome along the trade route, which went through Galilee. It was kept fresh, as much food was, as we kept food fresh for years before freezers - by salting it. The word of God is kept fresh within us by prayer; otherwise our Christian life may become weak and tasteless.

**A** big food of Jesus is the Eucharist. His bread of life can go stale unless we 'salt' it. We salt the Eucharist by our lives. We keep the Mass alive by the way we live.

**T**he Eucharist is entrusted to us. God gives us his Son, his food, and leaves it to us how we live by it.

**J**esus invites us to be the '*salt of the earth*' - to be people whose *lives* are centred on *helping others and making the places around us places of kindness, compassion, hope, fun and life*. We don't say '*You're salt of the earth*', if someone just receives communion. We are the salt of the earth if we live out our communion. The bread of Jesus is salted with the goodness of men and women, young and old, everywhere.

The real evidence for Jesus and Christianity is in how Jesus and the Christianity based on him manifest themselves in the lives of practicing Christians.

Lionel Blue

**O**ur response then links in with the first reading - if we feed, shelter, clothe and help our neighbour, we are '*the light that rises in the darkness*'.

#### **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		
SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY		

## ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH 2nd February 2026

**ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION** - goes towards maintaining our parish - **€380**  
**1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND** - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese - **€430**  
**2ND COLLECTION/SHARE** - Goes towards Diocesan Administration - **€325**  
**MAINTENANCE** - goes towards Parish upkeep - **€90**

*Many thanks for your continued support.*

### 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



If you would like to reflect on next Sundays Readings,  
please check...

**FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20**

**PSALM: Ps. 118:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34**

**SECOND READING: Corinthians 2:6 - 10**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 17 - 37 (or \*5:20-22,27-28,33-34,37)**



**Next Ashford Baptism Meeting - Thursday 26th February  
at 7.30pm in the Parochial House. Please ring the Parish  
Office (0404-61699) to confirm your attendance at this  
meeting.**



**Accord will hold its annual collection on the 14th and 15th February, at all masses. It will replace the Share Collection.  
Please support.**

## **ASHFORD COMMUNITY GROUP Providing support & a social outlet for older people**

### **DRAW RESULTS January 2026**

		<b>Winner</b>	<b>Seller</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>€300</b>	<b>Elva Goodwin</b>	<b>Ann Byrne</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>€150</b>	<b>B. Healy</b>	<b>Ann Lyons</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>€100</b>	<b>Daniel Crean</b>	<b>Ann Lyons</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>€50</b>	<b>Nora Higgins</b>	<b>Phyllis Armstrong</b>

## **Thank you for your ongoing support**

Registered Charity Number (RCN) 20200036



**The death of a loved one can be an overwhelming and isolating experience but you don't have to face it alone**

If you are grieving the loss of someone special or have had a loss of any kind and would like to talk to someone, Bethany Bereavement Support offer free support to adults, with sympathy and compassion in confidence. We have a drop-in service on the last Tuesday of the month at 8:00 pm in the De La Salle Centre Wicklow, or if you prefer, we can meet with you in person. Just call us on 086 835 9148 to arrange.

**Unit 2, First Floor,  
Rear of Boots Pharmacy,  
Abbey Street, Wicklow**

**Have you, or a family member, been diagnosed  
with Cancer?**

**We're here to help -  
All our services are free of charge**

**0404 32696 or 086 821 6694**

**Email [info@wicklowcancersupport.ie](mailto:info@wicklowcancersupport.ie)**

Open: Mon-Fri: 10.00-5.00.  
Closed for lunch 1-2p.m.



Your contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your parish.

If you would like to become a regular supporter to the Parish, please fill in this slip and return to the Parish Office or Sacristy

Name.....

Contact Number.....

Address.....

ORGAN RECITAL - POETRY - SONG

Wednesday, 18. February  
6.30pm to 8pm

## An Ode to Spring

Experience the Healing of Sound  
with Klaas Jan de Vries



Homemade  
organic soup  
&  
soda bread  
on arrival

Tickets  
€20

**AN TAIRSEACH**

KILMANTIN HILL, WICKLOW TOWN  
0404 61833 [www.antairseach.ie](http://www.antairseach.ie)

