

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

18th January 2026

RCN 20016166

John testifies that Jesus is the Lamb of God, God's own Son.

Background on the Gospel Reading

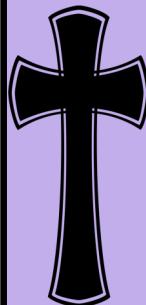
This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.



Sincere sympathies to the families of

*Dave Higginson formerly of Stockport,
Manchester Ashford Co Wicklow and Murcia Spain*

	This week we remember	Next week we remember
SATURDAY 6.00pm ASHFORD		
SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY	NO MASS	

ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH 11th January 2026

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION	- goes towards maintaining our parish	- €135
1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	- €385
2ND COLLECTION/SHARE	- Goes towards Diocesan Administration	- €575
MAINTENANCE	- goes towards Parish upkeep	- €320

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



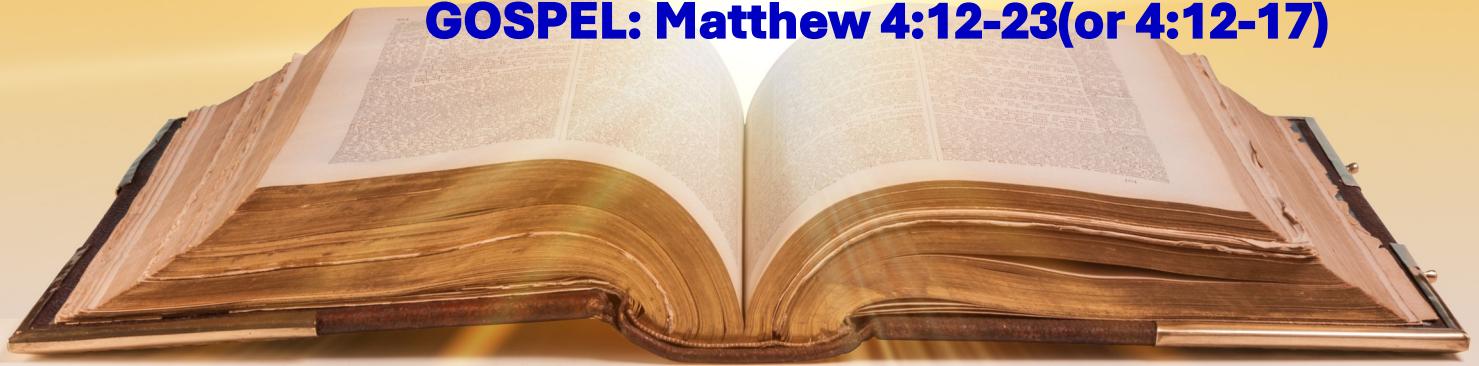
If you would like to reflect on next Sundays Readings,
please check...

FIRST READING: Isaiah 8: 23 - 9:3

PSALM: PS. 26:1,4,13-14

SECOND READING: Corinthians 1:10-13,17

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23(or 4:12-17)



ASHFORD COMMUNITY GROUP CHRISTMAS DRAW RESULTS

		Winner	Seller
1 st	€500	Luke Wrynn	Phyllis Armstrong
2 nd	€350	Mal O'Keefe	Jackie Roche
3 rd	€100 donated by Martsworth.	Lilly May Manning	Ann Byrne
4 th	Roundwood Stores / Coach House voucher €100	Sheila Driver	Catherine Barrett
5 th	Afternoon tea for 2 in Hunters Hotel	Henry Stewart	Jackie Roche
6 th	€50 voucher for the Hen & Hog	Bernie Murphy	Ann Lyons
7 th	€50 voucher for N11	Butch Kavanagh	Catherine Barrett
8 th	€50	Sharon Traynor	Catherine Barrett
9 th	€25 voucher Dowling's Butchers	Brendan Manning	Ann Byrne
10 th	3 bottles wine	Ali O'Shea	Liam Carthy

Active Retirement Activities & Trips

Now with 105 members, we are one of the largest Groups in Ireland

Tuesday morning meetings 10.45am.

Follow us on our facebook page: **Wicklow Active Retirement**

If you would like to join active retirement or find out more, please do feel free to ring Pauline on 087 227 6760

You will be sure of a Céad Mile Fáilte

Next Ashford Baptism Meeting - Thursday 22nd January at 7.30pm in the Parochial House. 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 parishofficewicklow@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE WICKLOW 0404 -61699

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

For all enquiries and bookings

Scoil na Coróine Mhuire - Junior Infants Sept 2026

School admissions for new Junior Infants for Sept 2026, which will be opening on the 7th January (all relevant dates are on our website).

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MOBILE PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF WHILE IN THE CHURCH.

Anam Cara, the charity organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Monday 19th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow.

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance.

We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

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.....

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Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey.

- POPE FRANCIS