

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A

21st December 2025

RCN 20016166

Donal Neary S.J. Gospel Reflection ~The Call to Joseph

In religious terms we would call Joseph 'a faithful type of guy', observant in religious thought and practice. The visit from the angel tests his faithfulness to God and to Mary. He doesn't let them down. He was called to be the *carer* of Jesus and Mary and to find a new openness to the mystery of God.

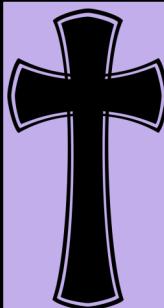
A temptation of religion is to tie things down too much. The law in Joseph's time was strict - if a woman was pregnant the man would cancel the betrothal, and she might be stoned to death! Joseph went beyond law to love and the mystery of God's call. Good religion is open to the mystery of life, however life challenges us and calls us. Some of the most open-minded people I have met have been very religious, and some of the most narrow-minded people have also been religious! Like good and bad medicine, there is good and bad in religion.

True religion is open to mystery. We need a church lit with the light of God, as Joseph was. His burden was lifted when he was open to God, to take Mary home as his wife, no matter what others might think. This is the annunciation to Joseph - the word of God from the angel to Joseph in a dream. It opened him to a huge new meaning in life. We accept this word as a central part of our lives, and the next time we meet the word, it will be made flesh.



Look to your own house, and all who live in it. Imagine the light of Christ in each room and on all the family.

Lord, you are the word of God, made flesh, have mercy on us.



Sincere sympathies to the families of Kathleen Crean née Cullen of Kilmartin, Ashford and formerly Kilmore Quay, Co Wexford

	This week we remember	Next week we remember
SATURDAY 6.00pm ASHFORD	Larry, Patrick & Margaret O'Toole	
SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY	Andrew Dunne R.D	

ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH 14th December

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION	- goes towards maintaining our parish	- €165
1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	- €565
2ND COLLECTION/SHARE	- Goes towards Diocesan Administration	- €455
MAINTENANCE	- goes towards Parish upkeep	- €90

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: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

PSALM: PS. 127: 1 - 5

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 13-15,19-23

De La Salle Parish Office

*Will close on Friday 19th December
at 12.30pm and re-opens on
Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 10am.*

*Wishing all our clients
a very happy and
peaceful Christmas
and new year.*



CHRISTMAS EVE WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

5.00pm in Wicklow Family Christmas Liturgy with Holy Communion

VIDIL MASSES

- 6.00pm ~ Brittas Bay
- 6.30pm ~ Ashford
- 7.00pm ~ Wicklow
- 8.00pm ~ Barndarrig
- 9.00pm ~ Wicklow

CHRISTMAS DAY: THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER

- 9.00am ~ Rathnew & Kilbride
- 10.30am ~ Wicklow & Glenealy
- 12noon ~ Wicklow & Ashford

ST STEPHENS DAY: FRIDAY 26TH DECEMBER

- 10.00am ~ Wicklow & Ashford

SATURDAY 27TH & SUNDAY 28TH

Normal Weekend Masses

NO BAPTISM MEETING IN DECEMBER

**Thank You to all
our Volunteers!**

As we celebrate

Christmas & New Year

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 ALL FOR BUILDING
HOPE IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY.**

De La Salle

Pastoral Centre

*Will close on Friday
19th December at
10pm and re-open on
Monday 5th January
2026 at 10am.*

*Wishing all our
Patrons a very Happy
& peaceful Christmas.*

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).

PARISH SHOP

The Parish shop is situated in the lobby of the parish office. It has been restocked with new candles, cards and some new general stock, grave candles & ornaments. Drop in and have a browse, baptism candles small baby gifts, angel gifts, rosary beads, car medals, visor medals, cards and much more. There is also have a wide selection of Mass Cards and ordinary cards available. Shop open same time as office from 10am till 12.30pm.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

We would love to hear what is happening in the parish so that we can include it in the parish newsletter.

If you are organising any event or activity—non-profit—please email us with the details at parishofficewicklow@gmail.com.
We look forward to hearing from you.

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 enquires and bookings

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

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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