



Pope Francis RIP
17 December 1936 -
21 April 2025

Death of Pope Francis – extract from statement of Archbishop Farrell

Pope Francis's death comes during the *Jubilee of Hope* which he inaugurated on Christmas Eve last. In his acceptance of people as they are, and by his constant going out to encounter the other in their own place (see Mark 1:38 and John 12:27), he himself became the great pilgrim of hope. In his preaching and teaching he has given the Church a rich treasury from which we will be drawing sustenance long into the future. From the outset he insisted on sharing the "joy of the gospel" and put those on the periphery at the centre of his ministry. The Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*—the *Joy of the Gospel* (2013), established the horizon, and set out the programme for his papal ministry. The joy of the gospel, and its hope, came to shape his life and ministry, and was the centre of his teaching: "Rather than offering the healing power of grace and the light of the gospel message, some would indoctrinate that message, turning it into dead stones to be hurled at others." (*Amoris Laetitia*, n. 49). Witness to the acceptance, healing, and hope of Christ is what the Church is really about, and Pope Francis gave himself to it with every fibre of his being.

His was a life marked by numerous profound changes. All that he became was rooted in his deep prayer, in his trust in the journey of Jesus, and in his abandonment of himself to the will of God. He has now set out on the final stage of his pilgrimage to God. For him, death "will allow us to participate, with sublime emotion, in the infinite and blissful exuberance of God's creative act, whose endless adventures we will experience first-hand." (24 August 2022) At the end of almost every audience and address, he would assure those present of his prayers, and ask them—with great simplicity—to pray for him. As we give thanks for the extraordinary gift he was and is for us all, let us do the one thing he asked for himself, let us pray for him. Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord. May he hear those words addressed to the good and faithful servants, "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. May Pope Francis rest in the peace of Christ.

ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Easter ~ Year C
(Divine Mercy Sunday) 27th April 2025

RCN 20016166



Gospel Reflection ~ Only Faith ~ Donal Neary SJ

Jesus spoke in short sentences and summed up a lot of life in a few words. His final beatitude is in the gospel today - '**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.**' You can unpack that little phrase and in it you realise that faith is about things that cannot be proved, that it is not easy and that it brings a blessedness to life. It also includes ourselves - the ones of this year who still believe.

Something is only by faith when everything else fades off. Our loved ones die and only faith assures us that they are '*alive with God*'. Only faith assures us that **J**esus is present in the mystery of the bread and wine at our Mass. Only faith assures us that he is with us when two or three gather and only faith assures us that what we do for others we do for him. **F**aith assures us of some of the best things of life; finally that we come from **G**od and go to **G**od. **T**homas found difficulty with all this. **J**esus dealt gently with him, pointing out the wounds of his body and inviting him to touch them. But **T**homas never needed to touch the holes in **J**esus' hands and feet. He was told that an even better happiness was to believe without touch or sight. He found faith now in the risen **L**ord, and the faith itself was **J**esus final gift to **T**homas.

We need to take time and let faith grow within us. This can be in prayer, in faith-conversation and in allowing ourselves sit quietly and be in the presence of **G**od. In the busy world, this may be difficult, but no day is diminished by time spent in silence and in quiet, knowing we are richly blessed when we grow our faith in **G**od.

*Lord, I believe in your presence
with me and within me.
Strengthen my belief.*



ASHFORD & GLENEALY ~ PARISH - CONTACTS

FR EAMONN CROSSON 0404 40540

www.ashfordglenealyparish.ie parishofficewicklow@gmail.com

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	James Hegarty—formerly of Ashford, died in USA	
SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY	John Behan (1st A)	

ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH

20th April 2025

ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION	- goes towards maintaining our parish	- € 255
1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND	- pays salaries of Priests of Diocese	- € 821
2ND COLLECTION/SHARE	- goes towards Diocesan Administration	€ 490
MAINTENANCE	- goes towards Parish upkeep	- € 390
EASTER DUES		€ 905

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

To reflect on the readings please check
catholicireland.net / sacredspace.ie / universalis.com

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

PSALM: 29:2, 4-6, 11-13

SECOND READING: Apocalypse 5:11-14

GOSPEL: John 21:1-14

We have a new Tap & Go machine in Ashford Church. When you 'Tap' you now get the opportunity to put in your name, telephone number or email address. This in turn allows the parish to accumulate all donations from the tap device, and from family offering/Share/Common Fund or dues collections. Your information is only required once. Therefore, for all combined donations over €250 the parish can claim the tax back. Please choose a quiet day when the church is not busy to insert your contact details.

Baptism in the St. Mantan Pastoral Area

Wicklow	First Saturday	2pm
	Third Sunday	1pm
Rathnew	Fourth Saturday	2pm
Ashford	First Sunday	12pm
Glenealy	Third Saturday	12pm
BBK	Second Saturday	2pm

Next Ashford Meeting is on
Thursday, 22nd May at 7.30pm in the church.





You are invited to join this guided trail, which will commence outside the Tourist Office in Fitzwilliam Square on Easter Saturday at 11am. (Trail will take approximately 2 hours to complete).

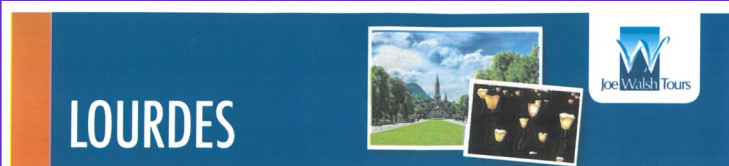
Guided trails will take place each Saturday from Easter Saturday April 19th until 27th September.

For more information on

Wicklow Town Heritage Trail visit: www.wicklowtown.ie

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



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
Wicklow Rathnew
26 August 2025
7 Nights
€1,095 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lourdes
- » 20kg bags included
- » Return Airport Transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights accommodation in La Solitude Hotel
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme including Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
- » Visit Places associated with the life of St. Bernadette including a guided tour of Lourdes and Bartres

For information please contact:

Nancy Colgan **Carol Kavanagh**
Telephone: 086 1099112 **Telephone: 086 0601956**
Email: cncolgan@gmail.com **Email: carol.kavanagh2@gmail.com**

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LIFE & SPIRIT SEMINAR
in
RDA HALL
RATHDRUM
Co. WICKLOW
A67 X668

COMMENCING
TUESDAY 15th
APRIL
to
TUESDAY 27th MAY
(seven consecutive
Tuesday Nights)

Time 7.30pm

Guest Speaker
each night

For further info:
Jack 086 - 2464181

TESTIMONIALS TO THE
HEALING POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

- Kate healed from Crohns disease after 26 years.
- Robert paralyzed and on a life support machine for 3 months, totally healed
- Abby young girl with anorexia, totally healed
- Aishling with depression and alcoholism, totally healed
- Eugene 10 years of chronic pain, the Holy Spirit asked me to forgive, totally healed



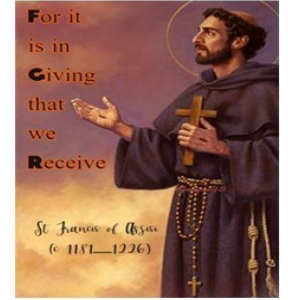
Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Ashford. Church Grounds

A huge thank you to all involved in the Church grounds clean up.

We hope to make this a monthly get together.

Please leave your name and number in the sacristy if you would like to help.

And a big thank you our local proprietors who contributed to the new planters each side of the church door- **Chester Beatty Inn, Tirlán Country Life, Adriano's Take Away, Dowling's Butcher and Martsworth Flooring**



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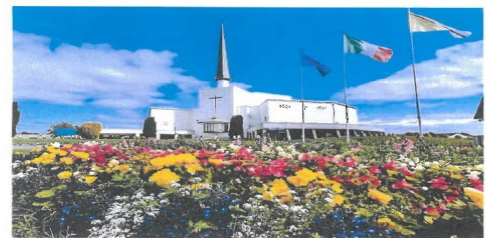
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Knock Pilgrimage



Pilgrimage to knock on the 21st September 2025.

Leaving the Memorial park Rathdrum at 7.30am sharp via Grand Hotel Wicklow at 8am.

€80 per person this includes Bus, Breakfast, Dinner.

Names and payment before 1st June 2025

Contact Susan at 0876273032.

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.....

.....

.....

"Thank you, God,
for the strength you
give me to face
each day with
courage and grace."

The Beatitudes of Pope Francis (Sweden – 2016)

Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.

Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalised and show their closeness.

Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him.

Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.

Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.

Reflection

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

Everyone has experienced some degree of despair that “makes us feel as if our soul were crushed,” unable to breathe and perhaps even eager for death, Pope Francis said.

“We have to understand when our spirit is in this state of extended sadness, where there is almost no air. This happens to all of us” to some degree, he said.

So then what should people do when they go through “these dark moments because of a family tragedy, an illness, something that brings me down?” he asked.

In times of hopeless, spiritual despair, he said, the answer is to pray hard, just like Job, who cried out day and night for God to listen.

Risen Jesus,

***Accompany us on our journey of sadness
as you walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
Help us respond to our calling, follow Your example
and the witness of Pope Francis to be there
for each other,
in a spirit of solidarity as sisters and brothers.
Give us the courage to broaden our horizons
and reach out to those who need Your light,
no matter who they are or where they come from.
We ask this in Your name. Amen.***

Let us pray, in the spirit of Pope Francis, for all who are sick today:

**God of tenderness and healing,
Be with those who are ill in their struggle at this time.
Fill them with Christian hope that does not disappoint
and strengthen them in this time of trial.
May they who are supported by so many in prayer
be lifted up on the wings of our intercessions.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.
May Mary, who stood at the cross of her Son comfort the
sick today.**

**A Mhuire na nGrás, a Mháthair Mhic Dé, Go gcuire tú ar
a leas iad.**

