

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

First Sunday of Advent - Year C

30th November 2025

RCN 20016166

Donal Neary S.J. Gospel Reflection ~Light for the journey

In faith and in hope we begin Advent this week with its first candle. With Mary and Joseph we wait for Christ. The candles are lighting the way for them - and for us! The coming light of Jesus lights both our waiting and our journey in life. May it shine the light of Christ into the darknesses of the year since last Christmas - bereavement, illness, depression, disappointments?

We prepare best for Christmas by spreading this light. The way to celebrate Christmas is rooted in our following of the gospel. Among our ways are caring more for the poor, some focused daily prayer, and the wish to forgive more and be forgiven.

All the different images of Christmas prepare us for this birth

- the carols we hear and sing,
- the lights in the streets,
- the star over the church and our Christmas trees and the ways we pray with anticipation and remember other Christmas days with joy.

Everything of this month can remind us of God. The Christmas trees, lights, cards, carols, parties, Santa hats, the houses lit up with reindeer and all the things we see about Christmas, all remind us that God is near.



We welcome the lights in the spirit of Pope Francis:

'Those who have opened their hearts to God's love, heard his voice and received his light, cannot keep this gift to themselves. Since faith is hearing and seeing, it is also handed on as word and light' (The Light of Faith, 37). Spend a little time this Advent remembering some people or family memories that make you grateful for Christmas. Thank God for these in your own words.

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 | TJ & Stephen Hayden (A) & members of the Hayden & Keating Family | |
| SUNDAY 10.30am GLENEALY | | |

ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH 23rd November

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------|
| ENVELOPE/ CHURCH COLLECTION | - goes towards maintaining our parish | - €175 |
| 1ST COLLECTION / COMMON FUND | - pays salaries of Priests of Diocese | - €292 |
| 2ND COLLECTION/SHARE | - Goes towards Diocesan Administration | - €235 |
| MAINTENANCE | - goes towards Parish upkeep | - €70 |

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: Isaiah 11: 1 - 10
PSALM: Ps 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17
SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-9
GOSPEL: Matthew 3: 1 - 12

PARISH NOVENA CHRISTMAS CARDS

Are now available at the Parish Office. These cards are suitable for both the living and the dead, and they cost €5.

There are various designs of the Wicklow & Rathnew Parish. They are a perfect way to remember and pray for family and friends over the Christmas season, and also a lovely way to remember the our deceased family & friends.

There will be nine Masses offered within the Parish during the holiday period.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Ashford:

1st Friday after Mass

Wicklow:

Mondays & Thursdays after Mass

Kilbride:

1st Thursday at 7pm (Divine Mercy)

Brittas Bay:

Tuesdays at 9am

Next Ashford Baptism Meeting is on Thursday 22nd January at 7.30pm in the church. Please ring the Parish Office (0404-61699) to confirm your attendance at this meeting.

NO BAPTISM MEETING IN DECEMBER

St. Mantan's Partnership of Parishes
invites you to:

An Advent Message
of Hope



Wednesday 10th December
7.30p.m.
St. Patrick's Church,
Wicklow Town,
A67 AE37

Rathnew Women's Social Enterprise

**JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS
MARKET**

DECEMBER 14 TH 2025
FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM

St. Brigid's Hall, Rathnew A67 X583

Cosy Quilts, Knitwear, Crochet,
Handmade gifts,
Candles, Sensory toys,
Up cycled creations
Fresh baked goods and refreshments

RATHNEW WOMEN'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CROFT FAIR MARKET

St. Brigid's Hall, Rathnew A67 X583

The Heart of Rathnew Community Council

Stáitais an Rialtais Government of Ireland

Co-financed as an employment programme
Co-funded by the European Union

pobal government supporting communities

SEAP Employment Inclusion and Skills

County Wicklow Partnership

LCDC Local Community Development Committee

"The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-financed by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 - 2027."

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.



#HaveYourSay about your local Catholic school

Participate before 16 December 2025 in the
Department of Education and Youth's
#PrimarySchoolSurvey



www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/



Advent Reflection

Reflecting on the beautiful Advent Gospels

Where? An Taireseach (Dominican Ecology Centre)

When? 1. Wednesday November 26th

2. Wednesday December 3rd

3. Wednesday December 10th

4. Wednesday December 17th

What Time? 7:30pm - 8:40pm

Optional 'cuppa' after it with delicious homemade
biscuits

**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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PSALMS 37:5

**COMMIT YOUR WAY
TO THE LORD; TRUST
IN HIM, AND HE WILL
ACT,**

Bibleinspirationalquotesverses