

The Deep End - 'Called to transformation'

Jesus takes the disciples up to the mountain top in today's Gospel. In that space, they have a profound experience and are invited to see Jesus for who He really is. One can empathise with the disciples in this story as they do not want to leave that space. We all have had experiences that we want to last forever and are hugely disappointed when they are over. However, commitment to any cause very often involves a long and painful journey. Like the disciples in the Gospel today, there is a 'hook' moment, when Jesus or any leader shows us something different, a vision, a dream, something that is so wonderful and hope-filled that we commit there and then to making it happen. Then we realise that there is much work to be done and the path will not be so easy. Obstacles will arise, people will fall away, enthusiasm will waver, there will be set backs and disappointments. We are being called to commitment today, to the more difficult path. We are being called to open our ears and eyes to the Gospel message of transfiguration, of transformation. Per capita, Ireland is one of the highest polluters in Europe. This is not a statistic to be proud of. We know we can do better. Coming down from the mountain, like the disciples, means making changes in our lifestyles that lower each of our carbon footprints. We start with ourselves.

Scripture Readings for Third Sunday of Lent.

1st Reading: Ex 3:1-8, 13-15.
Psalm: 102:1-4, 6-8, 11, R/ v8.
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12.
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9.

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**St Vincent De Paul - New Ross
Telephone: (085) 8313073.**

Priest on Duty - 051 421214.

**Weekly Collection -
Sunday 14th February 2016
Envelopes: 248
Amount: €1771.50**

Sanctuary Lamp €10 per week

**The Parish Office & Shop
Opening Hours:-
Monday - Friday
10.30am - 4.00pm.**

**PARISH RADIO 104.7FM
10.00AM MASS DAILY**

Eucharistic Adoration takes place in our Parish each Tuesday beginning after 10.00am Mass and concluding with Solemn Benediction at 9.00pm.

**New Ross Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group:
Contact No: 087-3846577**

Lectio Divina - each Wednesday morning at 10.45am in the Parish Pastoral Centre, Robert St, New Ross.

**Legion Of Mary - Weekly Meetings
For details: Contact Des & Marie
Tel: 051-420523**

CBS Secondary School Parents Council.

The Parents Council are holding a Table Quiz in Brandon House Hotel on Friday 26th February 2016, starting at 7.30pm. Team (4 persons) - €20.00. Students welcome with a prize for the best Student Table. Raffle & Spot Prizes on the night. Prize money sponsored by Nolan Transport.

Lost/Found.

A sum of money was found on Robert Street, during the week. Please contact the Parish Office on 051 421348.



Volume 29 No 8

New Ross Parish. Church of St. Mary & St. Michael

Newsletter



21st February 2016

Second Sunday of Lent - 2016



Last week we travelled with Jesus into the wilderness, this second week of Lent finds us with Jesus on the top of a high mountain praying in the company of his disciples. Radiant and in glory Jesus speaks to Moses and Elijah about his suffering, his passion and death. On Tabor Jesus is transfigured by the Father's presence and his promise of liberation for all of human life. Peter, James and John sees Jesus' divinity - the very life and love of God that exist within him. That divinity which expresses itself in everything he says and does and will ultimately be manifested in his resurrection.

That same divinity exists in each one of us, we too have the fullness of God's presence animating, empowering and guiding us. The challenge for us is to allow the love of God within us to "transfigure" our own lives and the life of our world with the qualities of love, peace. Every day we need to create space in our lives where we can open ourselves up to the transforming love of God. From this space love will flow through us which will transform us and all who touch our lives.

Finally, we hear in the gospel that Jesus comes down the mountain and takes up his cross and makes his way to Jerusalem. We too are called to carry our cross. The cross of all that weights upon us, our own fears, anxieties, stress, sickness, broken dreams, hurt, and we can spend a lot of time and energy in our struggle to carry it all. In every moment of our life, especially the difficult ones, we must never forget that we are held, accompanied and loved. If we can experience the power of Jesus healing and transforming us, then we can slowly let go and surrender and accept and appreciate life as it comes to us. This will bring us extraordinary benefits: deep gratitude and peace, liberating freedom, renewed hope and trust, and a capacity to love tenderly and generously. We will come to experience the power of the resurrection in our lives and in turn bring that Good News to others.

(Sr A. Dilworth)



**New Traffic Plan.
Traffic in the Church Grounds is now one-way, clockwise around the Church.**

New Ross Parish Community strives to be a welcoming, life-giving PEOPLE, nourished by FAITH, WORSHIP of God and SERVICE of all in the example of Jesus Christ.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sanctuary Lamp		Special Intention
Sat 20	6.00	Tommy Leacy, Charleton Hill, 1st Anniversary.
Sun 21	8.00	Special Intention
	9.00	Ester Furlong, High Hill, 1st Anniversary.
	10.00	Nonie Dempsey, Quay Street, 1st Anniversary.
	12.00	Rosemary McCloud, Michael Street, Month's Mind.
	6.00	Margaret Rawson, Ard Na Greine, Anniversary.
Mon 22	8.00	Michael & Kathleen Byrne, High Hill, Anniversary.
	10.00	John Hennessy, Anniversary.
	1.05	Michael Bailey, The Irishtown, Anniversary.
Tues 23	8.00	John Jack Foley, The Irishtown, Anniversary.
	10.00	Paddy Barron, Convent Hill, Anniversary.
	1.05	Billy O'Hanlon, Hillside Bar, Camblin, Anniversary.
Wed 24	8.00	Baby Dermot Sylvester O'Connell, 66 Charleton Hill, 1st Anniversary.
	10.00	John & Ellen O'Neill, Rosbercon, Anniversary.
	1.05	
Thurs 25	8.00	Mass for the people of the Parish.
	10.00	George & Bridget Kehoe, William Street, Anniversary.
	1.05	
Fri 26	8.00	Special Intention.
	10.00	Eileen Larkin, Anniversary.
	1.05	
Sat 27	8.00	Paddy & Lizzy St Ledger, Mt Carmel, Anniversary.
	10.00	New Ross Parish Mass Association.
	6.00	Rebecca Irwin, Ard Alainn, Anniversary.
Sun 28	8.00	Deceased Members of the O'Brien & Mernagh Families.
	9.00	Jim & Molly Reeves, Mt Carmel Anniversary.
	10.00	Lily Mernagh, Mountross Anniversary.
	12.00	JJ Maddock, Mount Carmel Month's Mind.
	6.00	Martin Byrne, Camblin formerly Cross St Anniversary.

Today's Readings.

The vision of Christ transfigured in glory is given to the three apostles, who will see him suffering in the Garden. This vision is also for our encouragement at the beginning of Lent. Through suffering and the cross we come to the crown of glory in heaven. A lent well spent will bring us to a joyful celebration of Easter.

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Abram, later know as Abraham, is promised a covenant relationship with and by God. A covenant is a binding agreement between unequal parties; in this case God and Abram. God promises that Abram will have biological descendants, that they will be as many as the stars and that they are to have this land to dwell on - eventually! Abrams' response is one of trust, faith and belief in the Lord. The firebrand through the sacrifice Abram has offered is a symbol of the binding of that covenant.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Paul's message here to the Philippians, and indeed to us, is that if we want to be followers of Christ, we must always be friends with the cross. We must identify with the message and the reality of the crucified Christ. That reality includes humiliation which will be followed by glory; this motivated Paul to endure his imprisonment and to urge his beloved family in Philippi to stand firm.

Notices

Recently Deceased: We commend to the fullness of eternal life the souls of Irma Nix formerly South St. Baby Ruth Farrell. Biddy Higgins, Haughton Place. Mary Carney, Rathnure. May they rest in peace.
Anniversaries: We remember in our prayers this weekend Paddy Barron, Convent Hill. Alice Quinn, Priory St. Michael & Mary Burke, William St. James Ryan, Ard Na Greine. Michael Bailey, Irishtown.

Lenten Reflections.

Our Reflection evenings continue on Wednesdays of Lent, in the Pastoral Centre, Robert St, beginning at 7.30pm. Next Wednesday 24th February will focus on Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment through the light of the Sunday Gospel.

Mercy & The Environment: Exploring Pope Francis Encyclical on The Environment, *Laudato Si'*

Venue: Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. **Date:** Tuesday, 23rd February 2016. **Time:** 7.30pm.
Speaker: Professor Eamonn Conway of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

World Day of Prayer 2016.



Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre, Robert St, New Ross.

Date: Friday 4th March 2016. **Time:** 10.30am.

Every Year on the First Friday in March Christians around the world gather in small groups and large congregations, using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year, on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee.

This year we pray with the women of Cuba around childhood and children.
"Receive children, Receive Me"