



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

Parish Office Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10.30am to 2.00pm. Closed Holy Days & Bank Holidays. Wide range in stock of Holy Mass Cards, General Cards & Gift Ideas for all occasions.

Holy Mass Cards (signed) are also available in Cooney's & Ryan's Funeral Homes.



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RADIO MASS 104.7FM MASS

Date	Time		Intention
Sat 4th April	6.00pm	Sr. Breda, Carmelites Christina Boland, Grange Road.	1st Anniversary 1st Anniversary
Palm Sunday 5th April	10.00am	Kathleen Kennedy, Lisheen, Southknock. Jimmy Martin, Árd Na Gréine. Delia Purcell, Fr. Cullen Terrace. Ruth Roche, Late of Lower Michael Street & Swindon	Anniversary. 5th Anniversary. 1st Anniversary. Months Mind
Mon 6th April	10.00am	Alfred Place and deceased members of the Roche & Place Families. Niall Russell, Lower Southknock.	Anniversaries. Anniversary.
Tues 7th April	10.00am	Nicky Murphy, Millbanks Grove, Rosbercon & Priory Street. Frances Kennedy, Pondfields.	1st Anniversary. 2nd Anniversary
Wed 8th April	10.00am	Mass for the People of the Parish. Tommy & Peg O'Brien, Ard Mhicil.	Anniversary
Holy Thursday 9th April	Mass of The Lords Supper 6.00pm	Alan Murphy, Bosheen. Margaret & William Rochford, Old Charleton Hill	Anniversary. Anniversaries.
Good Friday 10th April	3.00pm	Ceremonies of The Lords Passion	
Easter Saturday 11th April	6.00am	Parish Mass Association.	

Mass Bookings: We are now taking booking up to and including September 2020 at the moment.

Sanctuary Lamps available @ €10.00 per week. Commencing Saturday @ 6.00pm.

Our Lady's (Left): Available | **Altar (Centre): Nicky Murphy** | **St. Joseph's (Right): Available**

RECENTLY DECEASED: We remember in our prayers Joy Bailey (nee Bailey), Charleton Hill & Emilian Skowron, Southknock who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. Should you wish to have a loved one included in this section please contact the Parish Office with the details by the previous Wednesday before 2.00pm. Thank you.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS: We remember in our prayers Ned Cash, Hospital Road, Mark Grace, Windmill Lane, Michael Sutton, Southknock, Robby Dunphy, Southknock & Frances Kennedy, Pondfields (2nd Anniversary) whose anniversary occurs around this time. Should you wish to have a loved one included in this section, please contact the Parish Office with the details by the previous Wednesday before 2.00pm. Thank you.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORDS RESURRECTION.

ACTS: 10:34, 37-43. PS 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, R/ v24. OR COR 5:6. JN 20: 1-9.

ALONE SUPPORT FOR THE ELDERLY **0818 222 024**. Gardaí Operation "Faóisimh" to protect against domestic abuse during Covid-19 crisis **1800 341 900**

5TH SUNDAY LENT A - REFLECTION

CHARLES DICKENS in his novel A TALE OF TWO CITIES describes the social situation in his day in the following terms-

"It was the best of times, it the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair".

We might describe our present situation in similar terms.. We could say we have gone from what we thought were the best of times to what seems to be the worst of times in a matter of weeks. We are invaded by an invisible enemy which has taken away our freedom, our livelihoods, our confidence, our health and in some case sadly life itself...and continues to do so. Some are in disbelief that this is happening – that our cosy comfortable, seemingly permanent life-style could be taken from us in a flash; some display a serious level of foolishness by not following the health safeguards; others despair of ever recovering financially; some see no silver lining in the darkness. But while describing the worst of times Dickens also aching wedges the presence of wisdom, belief, confidence and hope.

We must acknowledge the same now. We benefit from the wisdom of those steering us through this crisis. We have confidence in the professionalism and dedication of all involved in the health and caring services. Our hopes are raised by the goodness of people in making themselves and their abilities available on a voluntary basis. Our solid belief in the importance and dignity of every individual will trump any tendency towards self-centred selfishness. If there were signs in recent years that we were slipping into that type of MÉ FEIN mentality, hopefully this experience will re-awaken

our traditional Christian neighbourliness and give rise to even better times in the future. We are our neighbours' keepers. That belief is based on each of us being a unique creation of God and that He is present in our lives at all times – both in the best and in the worst of time. It may be a challenge for many to see His presence in tragic situations like the present one. In the Gospel today- the 5th Sunday of Lent- Jesus' close family friend Martha had the same problem. So deep was their friendship that she didn't put a tooth in it when she chided Him by saying- "IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE MY BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED."

His reply to her is His reply to us today—repeated in different forms throughout the Gospel (note –always in the PRESENT tense): I AM HERE/ I AM THE LIGHT/ I AM THE WAY/ I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE/ I AM THE SHEPHERD/ I AM THE RESURRECTION/ I AM THE LIFE.

Long distance athletes speak of HITTING THE WALL in races. It is the moment in an event when they feel that can't go on; they have nothing else to give. But somehow they find the reserves of energy to continue. We need to know that as we make this strange journey together and dig deeper into our faith, that somewhere in the uncertainty and sense of unknowing, we can find the grace to continue.

FAITH is a powerful concept ; it can propel us into doing amazing things for other people. FAITH is knowing whom to ask for help. For Martha and Mary Jesus made the impossible possible. He is here for us now too. We do all we can for others as if everything depended on us and we place our trust in God as if everything depended on Him. The author of FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND walked the strand with the Lord, noting that in good time- the best of times- there were two sets of footprints visible- side by side-her's and the Lord's.

But at the lowest and saddest times in her life -the worst of time- there was only one set of prints. She asked why He deserted her in those desperate times when she needed Him most. His answer to her is His answer to us to day as we face this virus together

"WHEN YOU SAW ONLY ONE SET OF FOOTPRINTS, IT WAS THEN THAT I CARRIED YOU".