

At the baptism of Jesus, God witnessed that Jesus was his Son. By baptism we too have been made God's children, chosen to bring his Good News to the world.



*You are my Son,
the Beloved;
my favour rests on you.*



Today, Jesus' baptism by John, was a special moment - the real coming of God's spirit upon him. The Spirit who had come on Mary at the moment of Jesus' conception, and would come to Jesus at his last moment on the Cross.

The spirit brings him new energy - The feast marks that something new is happening, and that Jesus is the beloved son; from eternity and into time. The Spirit came upon him - but not just for himself. He would send the Spirit later to us - of forgiveness and of perseverance in doing good.

SPIRIT-ENERGY
Today is about energy. Jesus found a new spirit in himself after his prayer and he heard words he would never forget. Maybe you have heard words of love from someone you will never forget. They give energy to the heart and soul, making us people always on the go, ready for new life within us.

INTO BREAD AND WINE
The spirit pours the energy of God into bread and wine and they are changed forever. He sends himself forever. It is sending the love and presence and energy of God.

We know that we can get stuck. We need new infusions of the Spirit to give us renewed energy. Can we be the type of people who others think it's good to meet? Open to the spirit of God, open to new life, new love, being really fully the person I can be.?

Donal Neary SJ. (editor Sacred Heart Messenger)

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



At Baptism we celebrate that the baby has Three Special Friends: God The Father, who makes the sun shine on everybody; God The Son, Jesus, our forever friend, born at Christmas; and God the Holy Spirit who lives in our heart with every breath we breathe. The people touch the baby with welcome and blessing. The baby is carried with loving hands, beginning life. We are carried with loving hands too at the end of life to a new home of love and joy.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.*
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Go in peace.
Thanks be to God.



and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah 'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 103:1-3.3-4.24-25.27-30
*R. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are!*

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent [R]
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. [R]
3. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. [R]
4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. [R]
5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. [R]

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11 - 14; 3. 4-7
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own

and would have no ambition except to do good.
When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Someone is coming, said John,
someone greater than I.
He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'
Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, **All bow for following two lines:** who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*
The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.*

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
May almighty God have mercy on us....
Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain,

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 Mass Cards, General Cards & Gift Ideas for all occasions. Mass Cards are also available in Cooney's & Ryan's Funeral Homes.

Parish Office
051 421 348
Priest on Duty
051 421214 (24 Hr)



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Please follow HSE Guidelines & Stay Safe

Volume 37. No. 1

RADIO MASS 104.7FM MASS & LIVE STREAM ON PARISH WEBSITE.

MOUNT CARMEL MONASTERY CHAPEL REMAINS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

8.00AM MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE CELEBRATED IN PRIVATE. THESE INTENTIONS WILL ALSO BE REMEMBERED AT THE 10.00AM MASS IN THE PARISH CHURCH ON THE SAME DAY.

Date	Time		
Sat 8th Jan 2022	6.00pm	Monica O'Connor, Barretts Park, Longstone Drive & Belleville	1st Anniversary
Sun 9th Jan	8.00am	Patricia O'Neill, Mount Carmel	5th Anniversary
	9.00am	Maureen Murphy, Ballyrue	Anniversary
	10.00am	Nora Greene, Lucan, Dublin	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Craig Treacy, Parkfield	Months Mind
Mon 10th Jan	8.00am	Special Intentions	
Live on Southeast Radio	10.00am	Moira Place, Rosemount Hill	Anniversary
Tues 11th Jan	8.00am	Jim & Bridget Hawe, Piltown	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Joe Crosbie, Pondfields	3rd Anniversary
Wed 12th Jan	8.00am	People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Michael & Elizabeth Jefford & Deceased family members, Bewley Street	Anniversaries
Thurs 13th Jan	8.00am	Sheila Moriarty, Mount Elliot	Anniversary
	10.00am	Gerry Moore, Rosbercon	Anniversary
Fri 14th Jan	8.00am	John & Maureen Nixon, Ard Mhicil	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Deceased members of the King & Davis families	Anniversaries
Sat 15th Jan	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the souls of Bridget Moroney (nee O'Neill), Lacken Valley, Richie Roche, The Quay, Michael Byrne, Seaview Park, Tramore, Co. Waterford & New Ross, Bridget O'Mahoney (nee Malone), Camblin & Butlersland, Tom Dempsey, late of Quay Street & the UK & Declan O'Reilly, Cabra, Dublin & New Ross. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS: We remember & pray for the souls of Gerry Moore, Rosbercon, Philip May, Priory Street, Anne Murphy, Priory Street, Monica O'Connor, Barrett's Park, Longstone Drive & Belleville, John Boland, Passage East & late of Charleton Hill & Patrick Kinsella, Ballylane, whose anniversaries occurs around this time.

BAPTISMS:

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to book your child's baptism. Copy of Birth Certificates are required for the candidate. Photo ID also required for the person making /requesting the booking. 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.

Anam Cara Waterford is launching a monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Tuesday 11th January at 7:20pm in the Woodlands Hotel, Waterford. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

Sanctuary Lamps Intentions:

Available @ €10.00 per week. Commencing Saturday @ 6.00pm.

Our Lady's (Left):

Birthday Intentions

Altar (Centre):

The Sheehan Family RIP

St. Joseph's (Right)

Special Intentions

A Prayer for the New Year

May the Lord bless you so abundantly that you fall to your knees in gratitude.

May the year ahead find you flourishing because you are flourishing LOVE on those the Lord places in your path.

May the Lord reveal His amazing plans for you and may you hear Him speak clearly to you about the plans He has for you and you alone.

May the peace and joy in your heart be palpable that others long to join you in the still waters of His grace.

May the Lord give you a peace that passes all understanding that you may rest in Him

REGARDLESS of your circumstances.

May you know the Lord deeper this year than last and spend more time with Him and in His word.

May your words this year be measured and kind and draw others closer to the Lord.

And may you find new opportunities to know Him more, to walk in faith, and grow by His grace.

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY & PARISH INFORMATION.....

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Tuesday from 10.00am Mass to 8.00pm finishing with Solemn Benediction.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—NEW ROSS: 085 8313073

Radio & Live Stream Mass: 104.7FM & New Ross Parish Website Live Stream, Saturday Vigil @ 6.00pm & 10.00am Daily including Funeral Masses.

Mass Bookings: We are currently taking mass bookings up to and including June 2022.

Next Weeks Readings: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME IS 62: 1-5. PS 95: 1-3, 7-10, R/ V 3. 1 COR 12: 4-11. JN 2: 1-11.

Confessions: Saturdays after 10.00am Mass & before 6.00pm Mass. Mon — Fri on request after 10.00am Mass. Please notify the priest before Mass in the Sacristy.

Meals on Wheels: Avail of our high quality meals available 5 days a week. To order just call 051-445711, St. Aidan Centre, Cross St.

Safeguarding Representative: Mairin Jackson - Contact No: (051) 421348 - Any queries in relation to working with children or adolescence within our parish please contact the above.

Bethany Bereavement Support: Bereavement Support available by telephone Please ring 087 3846577 if you need support.

Weekly Collection and Supporting the Parish: You can donate via. The Ferns Diocesan Website (www.ferns.ie) by clicking the big pink button. Thank you for the support. **Please make all cheques payable to St. Mary & St. Michael Parish Church New Ross.**

St. Michael's Pastoral Centre: Available for Parish based activities, please contact the Parish office.

Intentions for the living: Intentions for the living will be announced as "Special Intentions" unless the person who the intention is for signs the GDPR Regulation Slip. Please advise at time of booking.

Certificate Requests: Certificate fees at €5.00 each. Photographic ID is required for the candidate including Photographic ID for the person who has been authorised by you to collect it. Request forms are available in the Parish Office. Collection on Fridays only.

IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: On sale in Parish Office @ €2.50 each.

PRIEST ON DUTY (051) 421214: Visitation of Sick / Housebound (First Friday Calls): We are anxious to visit those who cannot celebrate Holy Mass with us due to illness, aged or infirm. Arrangements can be made to receive the sacraments at home by calling the Parish Office. **Please note there will be no first Friday calls taking place under the current pandemic restrictions.**

Lectio Divina: Every Wednesday morning at 10.45am for one hour in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre.

Legion of Mary: Meetings every Thursday afternoon @ 12.00 noon in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre. Contact: Alex Doyle, Tel: 087 273 8703.

Home Visitation Team (Suspended for the Interim): Tel 083 474 5789 to avail of this service or to volunteer.

JESUS LIGHT OF THE WORLD REFLECTIONS:

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven" If you stop, and think about it, it is astounding that the simple unassuming birth of the Christ-child born 2,000 years ago in the Middle East has caused such commotion—His birthday triggers traffic jams today in places like London, Rome, New York, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro and even in New Ross. You may never have realised that every time you check your calendar or refer to a date, you are using Jesus Christ as your reference point.



Please Turn off Your Mobile Phones

JESUS LIGHT OF THE WORLD REFLECTIONS:.....Continued

Because of Jesus, history is divided into BO (before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini, in the year of our Lord). Even your birthday and my birthday is dated by His birthday.

The night that Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, a small group of poor shepherds was quietly tending their flocks of sheep in a nearby field. Looking up at the stars, nothing seemed any different from a thousand other nights. But what was about to happen would transform not only the shepherds' lives but billions of other lives as well. The world would never be the same.

Suddenly a bright light lit up the sky, and an Angel of God appeared above them and began speaking to them. It seemed unbelievable and it scared them... "But the Angel said to them: "Do not be afraid", I bring you news of great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a SAVIOUR has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

The Angel said that Christmas would bring "Great joy... for all the people".

Really? For many people today getting ready for Christmas seems to be hassle that a source of happiness. It can be a source of stress.

We often feel pressure, not pleasure when it comes to Christmas. It's a duty, not a delight. We endure Christmas rather than enjoy it. Ironically, at most Christmas parties the person whose birthday we're supposed to be celebrating is completely ignored. He's never even mentioned. Although the Lord Jesus is the reason for the season, He's often overlooked or merely mentioned along with Santa Clause & Frosty the Snowman!

Last Year, in the lead up to Christmas I asked a few random people: "What are you celebrating at Christmas?" Most answers had nothing to do with Jesus:

- "I'm celebrating that I made it through another year with this pandemic"
- "I'm celebrating that I am home with my family"
- "I'm celebrating that I've finished all my shopping"
- "I'm not celebrating anything. I'm just trying to survive"

Well, what is the purpose of Christmas? The first purpose of Christmas is **celebration**. We learn this from the Angel's opening statement to the shepherds at Bethlehem. God has wonderful news for us that would cause us all to rejoice and celebrate: **"I bring you good news for great joy that will be for all the people"**

The good news is worth celebrating for three reasons. It is personal— **"I bring YOU."** It is **positive**. **"GOOD News of great Joy."** And it is **universal**: **"For ALL the people."** It doesn't matter who you are, what you've done, where you've been, or where you are going—His news is for YOU.

GOD LOVES YOU!

The most famous statement in the Bible of Jesus' explanation of why the Father sent Him to earth: **"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life"** (John 3:16).

The entire reason for Christmas is the **LOVE OF GOD**. God loves YOU so much that He came to earth as human so YOU could get to know Him and love Him back. Theologians call this *The Incarnation*. God became one of us, a human being, so we could understand what He is truly like. God created us in His own image, which includes the ability to enjoy a personal relationship with Him. The He took the initiative to send Jesus, His Son, so we could understand His love and our need for Him.

Of course, we know a little about God by simply observing His creation. For instance, by looking at nature—our natural world—we know that our Creator loves variety: He created an incredibly diverse universe. Think of the limitless array of plants, animals, rock formations, snowflakes, and people. No two human beings, even twins, are exactly alike: we all have our own distinctive DNA. God does not make clones or copies. Everyone of us is an **original**.

To Be Continued.....

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.

