

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**GREETING**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. And with your spirit.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us.... Amen.

*(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING Isaiah 7: 10 -14**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**  
The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23: 1 - 6**

**R. Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. [R]
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. [R]
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. [R]

**SECOND READING Romans 1: 1-7**

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL Matthew 1: 18 - 24**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,

because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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

**NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*

*I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.*



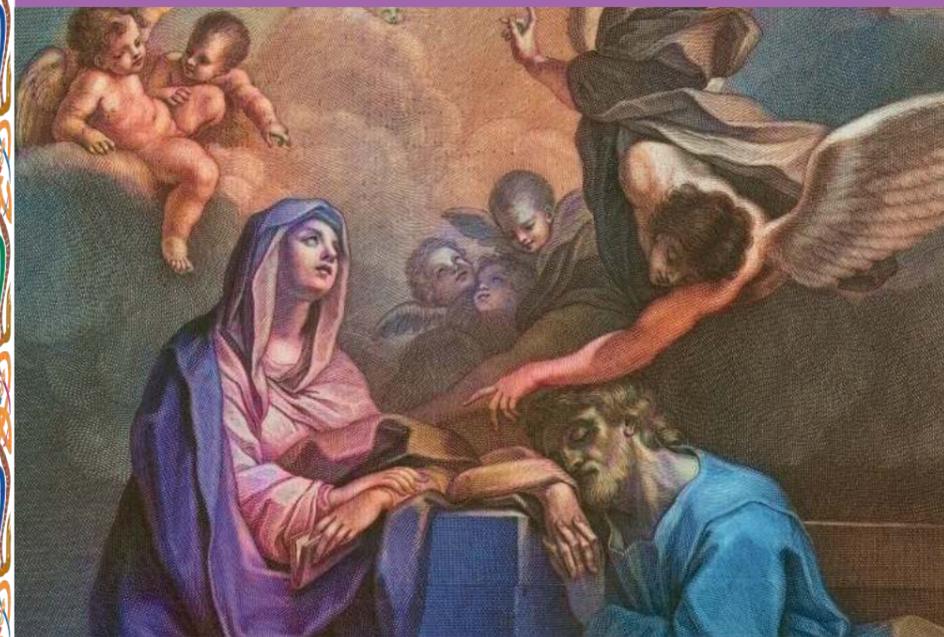
**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

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.**



focus on sunday

The birth of Christ is almost upon us now. We are reminded in Isaiah's prophecy of the long-awaited Emmanuel – God in our midst. Like Joseph, we need to make room for Jesus to enter our lives and our world.



**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

**EUCCHARISTIC 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.*  
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

**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, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**CONCLUDING RITE**

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen. Go in peace. Thanks be to God.



Christmas is practically here and there is still so much to be done. That Christmas celebrates the most central tenet of our faith, God becoming a human being, calls us to pray, reflect and do something practical. The great doctors of the church tell us that the whole of creation waited with bated breath to see if Mary would

agree to become the mother of the Saviour. Christmas celebrates God's gift to us of everything he has, his only Son, his whole family so to speak. Christmas celebrates Mary's generosity when she agreed to be the mother of the Saviour. In doing so she put in jeopardy her personal plans and ran the gauntlet of possible rejection by Joseph and being the butt of harsh and unforgiving village gossip. The season that's coming upon us is dripping with the spirit of generosity, God's generosity as well as Mary's and Joseph's.

It's the season for us all to be generous to all. It's the season to be compassionate to those who are less fortunate, forgotten and in need of meaningful help. It's the season to reach out and help a neighbour carry their load. If we ourselves have more than enough to enjoy Christmas, it won't hurt to be generous and give some of it away to those who have less or nothing at all to cheer them up. Christmas is not just about me. It's about us all together, rich, and poor, givers and receivers – all helping one another to carry the burden of our life together. So, let's slow down these days and try sensing and feeling the pain of others. God so loved and felt for the world that he sent his only Son... John 3:15.

Fr. Joe Walsh

**Jesus' Story**

Fr. Liam Hickey



Mary, The Mother of Jesus always prays for us. Her body is with God in Heaven. She is very close to each one of us. Now Mary knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, and help us with her motherly kindness. We can be especially close to Mary at Christmas and when we visit the crib recite the Hail Mary slowly and thoughtfully.

# 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 Nugent's Newsagents, Cooney's & Ryan's Funeral Homes.

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



Parish Mobile  
087 1212 707  
(Text Alert Only)



www.  
newrossparish.ie



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Visit us on  
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Ross Parish

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Radio Mass 104.7Fm & LIVE STREAM ON PARISH WEBSITE.  
All 8.00am Masses are in Mount Carmel Monastery Chapel



Date	Time		
Sat 17th Dec	5.00pm	Bridget O'Mahony, Butlersland & Camblin	1st Anniversary
Sun 18th Dec - 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Deceased Relatives of the King & Davis families	Anniversaries
	9.00am	Martin & Jim O'Neill, Cross Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Mary O'Hanlon (nee McGrath), Drumcondra, Dublin & New Ross	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Jim Holden, Barrystown, Wellingtonbridge & New Ross Patrick (Paddy) Murphy, Mount Carmel	Months Mind Months Mind
	2.00pm – 5.00pm	"O Come let us Adore Him" Light Fever Event in Parish Church	
Mon 19th Dec	8.00am	Kathleen & Laurence Kehoe, Newbawn	Anniversaries
	10.00am	John & Elizabeth Cooney, Robert Street	Anniversaries
	5.00pm	Reconciliation Service	
	7.00pm	Confessions	
Tues 20th Dec	8.00am	John & Mary Ann Cullen, Newbawn	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Bridget & Bernard Rowe, The Bullawn	Anniversaries
	10.00am - 8.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Wed 21st Dec	8.00am	People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Joe Doyle, Castlebridge	Anniversary
	11.30am	CBS Carol Service in Parish Church, All Welcome	
Thurs 22nd Dec	8.00am	Christmas Novena 1	
	10.00am	Rita & Pat Reidy, Limerick	Anniversaries
	3.00pm - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour in Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Fri 23rd Dec	8.00am	Carmelite Families, Relatives & Benefactors	Special Intentions
	10.00am	Michael & Annie Cleere & their son Paddy & extended family members	Anniversaries
Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	

**Sunday 18th December 2022:** "O Come let us Adore Him" Light Fever Event from 2.00 - 5.00pm.

**Monday 19th December 2022:** Reconciliation Service @ 5.00pm & Confessions @ 7.00pm

**Wednesday 21st December 2022:** CBS Carol Service in Parish Church, all welcome.

**Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December:** No Mass @ 10.00am in Parish Church. Confessions 2.00pm - 4.00pm in Parish Church. Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00pm & Parish Church @ 5.00pm & 7.00pm & Polish Mass @ 9.00pm.

**Christmas Day Sunday 25th December 2022:** Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00am & Parish Church @ 9.00am, 10.00am & 12.00 noon

**Parish Office & Shop Christmas Closure:** The Office / Shop will close Friday 23rd December 2022 @ 2.00pm & re-opens Tuesday 3rd January 2023 @ 10.30am.



## Sanctuary Lamps Intentions:

Available @ €10.00 per week.  
Commencing Saturday @ 10.00am.

**Our Lady's (Left):**  
**Rev. Thomas Ryan, Liam Ryan & Michael Breen - RIP**  
**Altar (Centre):**  
**Paul Walsh - RIP**  
**St. Joseph's (Right):**  
**Nicholas & Joan Cashin - RIP**

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

'God our Father, we trust in your loving kindness. Bless our Diocese of Ferns with many priestly and religious vocations. Give the men and women you call the light to understand Your gift and the love to follow always in the footsteps of your Son. Amen'.



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We pray for the souls of Anthony Clive Windebank, Wexford Street, Brian Dunphy, Rosamar, Southknock, Nan Murphy (nee Connors), The Maudlins, James Murphy, Coolroe, Ballycullane, Patricia (Trish) O'Leary, late of Neville Street, Fethard on Sea & Leighlinbridge, Carlow, who has passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:** We remember & pray for the souls of John (Non) Nolan, Chareilton Hill, Pat Hamilton, Pondfields, Kieran O'Grady (2nd Anniversary), Mountgarrett, Deceased relatives of the King & Davis families, James Maddock, The Bullawn, Gerard & Maura Flynn, The Kavanagh family, Joseph, Patti, JJ & Pat, Bewley Street, who's anniversaries occurs around this time.

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE:** We remember & pray for Claire McCormack, who's birthday occurs around this time.

**BAPTISMS:** Maximum of two candidates per Baptism. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to book your child's baptism. Minimum two weeks notice required. Copy of Birth Certificate is required for the candidate. Photo ID is 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.**

**New Ross Singers are "Celebrating Christmas" Tuesday December 20th @ 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church.**



## PARISH INFORMATION.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—NEW ROSS:** 085 8313073

**Radio & Live Stream Mass:** 104.7FM & New Ross Parish Website Live Stream, for all Masses including Funeral Masses excluding 8.00am in Mount Carmel Monastery Chapel.

**Mass Bookings:** We are currently taking Mass Bookings up to and including May 2023.

**Next Weeks Readings:** THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
**JESUS CHRIST** Is 52 : 7-10. Ps 97 : 1-6, R/ v 3. Heb 1 : 1-6.  
Jn 1 : 1-18.

**Confessions:** Saturdays after 10.00am Mass & before vigil 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 five days a week. To order just call 051-445711, St. Aidan Centre, Cross St.

**Safeguarding Representative:** Mairin Jackson -

Contact No: (051) 421348 - For any queries in relation to working with children or adolescence within our parish please contact the above.

**Bethany Bereavement Support:** If you need support please ring 087 3846577. Drop in Centre in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre on the first Thursday of every month @ 11.00am.

**Weekly Collection and Supporting the Parish:** Collections 11th December 2022 @ € 2,463.84 (Envelopes No. 161 & 2nd Collection combined). You can donate via. The Ferns Diocesan Website (www.ferns.ie) by clicking the big pink button. Should you wish to become a regular Parish Contributor, please contact the Parish Office. 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:** Request forms are available from the Parish Office. 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. Collection on Fridays only.

**PRIEST ON DUTY (051) 421214:** We are anxious to visit those who cannot celebrate Mass with us due to illness, aged or infirm. Arrangements can be made to receive the sacraments at home on the first Friday of every month by calling the Parish Office.

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

**Legion of Mary:** Meetings every Tuesday evening @ 7.30pm in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre. Contact: Alex Doyle, Tel: 087 273 8703.

**Radio Maria Ireland:** Radio Maria Ireland is an Irish run Catholic Talk-Radio Station. Prayer, Catechesis, uplifting music, Talks, interviews and Testimonies - all Commercial free-Listen via Free App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND", streaming on www.radiomaria.ie or via. PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply). Please join our growing faith Family!

**Irish Catholic Newspaper:** Available in the Parish Office @ € 2.50 each

## THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

As we look at the Crib, we can see the Christmas story come to life. All the different characters who were so important that first Christmas are here, and each of us can be represented there too. If you have a Crib, you are invited to place the pieces into it one by one, using the following prayers to help you. Christmas reminds us that 'God is no longer hidden but visible, no longer distant but near, no longer a notion but a person'. May we grow closer to the person of Jesus who is at the heart of Christmas and who is very visible and very near if we only had the eyes to see.

**The Manger:** Jesus was born in a stable and then laid in a manger which was used to feed animals. We pray for all those who are poor and don't have their own homes. We also pray for those who are hungry. Lord Jesus, help us to help us to help those who are most in need at Christmas time. Lord hear us.

**The Donkey:** Mary was carried on a donkey as herself and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem. We pray for all those who carry us when we need to be carried through hard times in our lives and we pray that we may remember those who need to be carried and supported - the wounded, the sick, the homeless, the migrant and refugee. Lord hear us.

**The Cow:** In the cold of the night, the cow breathed on the infant Jesus to keep him warm as he lay in the Manger. Lord, help us to keep others warm with our love and our care for them. Lord hear us.

**The Star:** The Star led the way to the stable. We pray for all those who have been guiding lights for us in life - parents or teachers or priests and all who help us on the journey through life and find our way. We also remember those are lonely or sad and those in darkness who need light and hope. Lord Jesus shine your light into their darkness. Lord hear us.

**The Shepherds:** The shepherds came to visit the stable after Jesus was born and then returned to their people with news of great joy. Lord Jesus, help us to remember to visit those who might be alone at Christmas and help us share your joy with them. Lord hear us.

**The Kings:** The three Kings brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Lord Jesus, may we be always grateful for the gifts we receive and remember those who didn't receive any gifts this year. Lord hear us.

**The Angel:** The Angels came from heaven to be messengers of the good news that Jesus the Saviour was born. We pray for all those who have died in 2020. We pray also for those who are missing loved ones this Christmas. Lord hear us.

**Joseph:** We see Joseph in the crib and we think of all men in our lives - our fathers, brothers, sons, nephews, uncles, husbands, boyfriends, grandfathers and godfathers. Joseph had the courage of his love for Mary to stand by her. We pray for all those who look after us and we thank them for all that they have done for us. Lord hear us.

**Mary:** As we see Mary in the crib, we think of all women in our lives - our mothers, daughters, sisters, nieces, wives, girlfriends, grandmothers and godmothers. Mary was asked by God to bring Jesus into the world. She cared for him as a baby and looked after him as he grew up. We pray for all those who care for us and who show us the tender mercy of God. Lord hear us.

**Child Jesus:** At the centre of the crib is the baby Jesus, born this Christmas. We remember all children. Each of our lives began as a small helpless baby, totally dependent on others. We pray for children all over the world, especially those who don't have loving families and are in danger. We pray to keep them safe and protected this Christmas. Lord hear us.



*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.*