

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

After the Lord was baptized, 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 42:1-4. 6-7  
**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice;

he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Ps. 28:1 - 4. 9 - 10.**

**R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

- O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. [R]
- The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. [R]
- The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. [R]

**SECOND READING** Acts 10: 34 - 38

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.** Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

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



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 3: 13 - 17

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

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

**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

This is the feast of Jesus receiving from his Father the calling and mission which he followed through in his life, death and resurrection. We too are baptised into a similar relationship with God in Christ.



**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.

**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.* 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. 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.



Nowadays we see baptism as welcoming a new person or infant into the Christian community. There was no Christian community for Jesus to be welcomed into when he was baptised by John in the river Jordan. By his baptism Jesus identified with all who were in need of God's special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as foretold by the ancient prophets. The opening of the heavens, the voice, and the Spirit confirmed that Jesus was God's presence in the world. He would treat people as they were his Father in heaven.

His presence offered hope and healing to all who felt overwhelmed and overburdened. "Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened...." Matthew 11: 28. We who have been baptised by water and the Holy Spirit have become other Christs. We are God's presence in the world. Christ lives in us - Galatians 2: 20. "Christ has no body now on earth but yours - no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks out his compassion on the world. Yours are the feet with which he goes about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses...." - Teresa of Avila. Let's not underestimate the power we have to offer hope and help to others who they are down - a listening ear, a kind word, a welcome mat, a bit of humour... Maybe we could go another step and offer the questioner a good reason for the faith we practise and the hope we have - 1 Peter 3:15.

Fr. Joe Walsh

**Jesus' Story**

Fr. Liam Hickey



When Jesus is baptised, He tells us that we have Three Special Friends. God The Father, who makes the sun shine on the good and not so good. God, The Son, who came at Christmas, to be our forever Friend, and God The Holy Spirit who is "The Breath of God" in us and in all the Universe. We bless ourselves in Thanks, and say "Glory be to The Father, and to The Son, and to The Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

# 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.

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Priest on Duty  
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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 7th Jan	5.00pm	Joe Mernagh, St. Joseph Square	1st Anniversary
Sun 8th Jan	8.00am	Maureen Murphy, Ballyrue	Anniversary
	9.00am	Kathleen & Thomas Caulfield, Wexford Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Glenis Coleman, Neville Street	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Rev. Canon Carey, Rosbercon	Anniversary
Mon 9th Jan	8.00am	Moirá Place, Rosemount Hill	Anniversary
	10.00am	Monica O'Connor, Belleville	2nd Anniversary
Tues 10th Jan	8.00am	Kent & Cullen families	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Connie Dwyer, Charleton Hill	9th Anniversary
	10.00am - 8.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Wed 11th Jan	8.00am	People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Paula Leahy, Ard Mhicil	6th Anniversary
Thurs 12th Jan	8.00am	Jin & Bridget Hawe, Piltown	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Joe Crosbie, Pondfields	Anniversary
	3.00pm - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour in Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Fri 13th Jan	8.00am	Thanksgiving	Special Intentions
	10.00am	Nicholas & Bridget Cooney, Ard Mhicil	Anniversaries
Sat 14th Jan	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We pray for the souls of Sr. Mary Catharina Murphy, Mount Carmel Convent, New Ross & Loughrea, Laurence (Larry) Doyle, Hazeldean, Arnestown, James Reddy, UK, Michael Cashin, Woodbine Close, Peter Caulfield, Knockmullen & Kilmore, who has passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:** We remember & pray for the souls of Andy Cullen (11th Anniversary), Church Street, Connie Dwyer (9th Anniversary), Charleton Hill, Helen Barrett (1st Anniversary), John Boland, Charleton Hill, Patrick Kinsella (22nd Anniversary), Late of Ballylane, Desmond, John & Owen Carroll, Mountgarrett, Josephin Power, Michael Street, who's anniversaries occurs around this time.

**BAPTISMS:** We welcome into our Christian community Lena Marta Uruska, Deer Park, who was baptised recently in our Parish Church. 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.



**Sanctuary Lamps Intentions:**  
Available @ €10.00 per week.  
Commencing Saturday @ 10.00am.

**Our Lady's (Left):**  
**Aaron Phillpott—RIP**  
**Altar (Centre):**  
**Nickey Murphy - RIP**  
**St. Joseph's (Right):**  
**Boland Family - 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.'



**Lent 2023:**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY** 22nd of February.  
**Holy Week 2023:**  
**Palm Sunday** - 2nd of April.  
**Holy Thursday** - 6th of April.  
**Good Friday - the Lord's Passion** 7th of April.  
**Holy Saturday** 8th of April.  
**The Easter Season 2023:** Sunday 9th of April  
Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection.

**Confirmations 2023:** Saturday 11th & 25th of March.  
**Communions 2023:** Saturday 20th & 27th of May.

**WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
18-25 January 2023**

*Do good; seek justice (Isaiiah 1:17)*

**FERNS DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL  
SERVICE**

**Church of the Holy Trinity,  
BUNCLODY**

**SUNDAY 22 January 2023  
7.00p.m.**

**Preacher:** Rev. Michael Anderson  
(Arklow Presbyterian Church)

**ALL WELCOME**

The New Ross Active Retirement will have their general meeting on Friday the 13th January at 10.30 am at the Youth Centre Nunnery Lane all welcome



## 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 June 2023.

**Next Weeks Readings: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY**  
**TIME** Is 49:3, 5-6. Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10, R/vv 8, 9. 1 Cor 1:1-3. Jn 1:29-34.

**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:** 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

## MARY MOTHER OF GOD - JANUARY



We were delighted at the large numbers that attended the Masses over the Christmas weekend. After all the hustle and bustle, all the shopping and preparations, people still were anxious to lay it all aside for a short while and experience the unique joyful personal family feeling of togetherness that is Christmas.

In our world today everyone is not madly religious all the time and many just dip in and out of the Church as their needs demand. And that is ok-God accepts all callers.

The attraction of the Christmas scene proves that deep down we all know we have something special in our belief that God became one of us on that first Christmas night so that we might be able to rise above our weaknesses and live our lives as He intended.

Almost in spite of ourselves and the values of modern society, we become attached to our religion- not so much by the doctrines and practices of the Church- but by the memory of the stories and images our religion presented to us from day one.

One of the first and most powerful is that of the Christmas Crib.

Here we meet Mary, the Mother of God- and our Mother too.

It all begins when a mother brings her little child to see the littler baby in the Crib. We see it everyday here. The child gazes in wonder at the scene of Angles, animals, shepherds, kings, mother and father- all gathered round the baby in the cot. We are fortunate to have a crib here that marvellously creates that atmosphere and mystery.

Imagine a conversation between a Mother and her child,

'WHO IS THE BABY'- the child asks.

'THAT IS JESUS' the mother replies.

'WHO IS JESUS?' asks the child.

'JESUS IS GOD' says the mother.

'OH!' says the child.

'AND WHO IS THE LADY' asks the baby.

'THAT IS MARY- GOD'S MAMMY.' answers the mother.

Its hard to beat that story. It is many children's first introduction to knowledge of God - which is theology. It sums up in a few simple Q&As what has taken very learned people books to say. Nothing in later life shakes that attachment. They may reject much of what the official Church stands for; they maybe disillusioned by the scandals in the Church but the majority hold on to that simple Christmas story - that God SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON that each of them - that all of us could live our lives better.

In a word we have our stories, images and rituals and nobody and nothing will detach us from them.

And the most powerful and amazing is THAT MARY IS THE MOTHER OF GOD AND OUR MOTHER TOO. Research among young catholics in America shows that the MARY IMAGE continues to be their most powerful religious image. We see it here in this Church every day among all age groups - the attraction Mary as Mother has.

Brendan Behan wrote a letter to a newspaper protesting that a journalist referred to him as a NON-CATHOLIC. He was not a non -Catholic, he insisted but a bad Catholic and that there was a world of difference between the two.

Here is a slightly irreverent story.

One day God made a tour of Heaven to see the new arrivals. He was taken aback by some who had been let in. He immediately confronted St Peter who was in charge.

'YOU HAVE LET ME DOWN AGAIN' God said.

'WHAT'S WRONG NOW?' Peter said.

'THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE WHO SHOULDN'T BE HERE.' said God.

'WELL I DIDN'T LET THEM IN' said Peter.

'WELL, WHO DID?' said God.

Peter knew who let them in but hesitate to say who. So he said,

"YOU BETTER TALK TO YOUR SON'S MOTHER ABOUT THAT."

It tallies well with our own concept of Mother and the Gospel image of Mary.

THE HAPPINESS OF HER CHILDREN IS UPPERMOST IN HER MIND AT ALL TIMES.

## The Effects of the Holy Spirit

Reflect, today, upon the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Look for the effects of the Holy Spirit to discern whether or not you are being truly led by God. Allow yourself to be led and moved by the Breath of God and anticipate great things in your life.

*Come Holy Spirit, renew within me the grace of my Baptism and lead me each and every day in accord with Your divine will. I abandon myself to Your glorious care and trust in the promptings of Your presence in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.*



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.