



focus on sunday

The Lord is absent: that was the first experience of Jesus' followers after his death. But even though he has returned to his Father, he is with us. Today's feast is the celebration that he is present both in heaven and on earth.



I am with you always



Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

When children grow up and leave home to begin a life on their own, both parents and children feel the truth of those words, 'Know that I am with you always.' The child's leaving home may be necessary so their love for parents, and vice versa, can come to full bloom.

It was only many years after my parents were gone did I come to realise what a phenomenal blessing they had been to me. I shed my tears at their loss and wondered about getting on with life without them. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Now, almost fifty years later, I feel stronger towards them than I did while they were alive.

Jesus told his disciples on the night before he died that unless he went away the Spirit would not come to them. The mystery of the Ascension celebrates the mysterious reality of Jesus' presence in his absence. Today's feast is not calling us to live in the darkness of Jesus' absence – sheer blind and cold faith in someone who is gone.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you (Acts 1).

The Ascension celebrates, rather, the work of the Holy Spirit making us aware of the deep richness of Jesus in our midst: the meaning of his life and miracles and words for us today, and the conviction that he is still alive and with us. When we feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, comfort the sick and incarcerated, we are serving the very person of Christ risen and living in people everywhere.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. I feel stronger towards my parents now than I did while they were alive. Jesus said that "unless I go the Spirit cannot come." The Spirit brought home more clearly to the disciples who Jesus really was.

Fr. Joe Walsh

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus friends wanted Him to stay with them forever. Jesus told them that He will stay with them, but in a new way, through The Holy Spirit, in their hearts. When He was on the mountain leaving, He told His Friends to tell all people that they have Three Special Friends in HeavenGod the Father who makes the sun shine on everyone - the good, and not so good, Jesus who came at Christmas, to be our forever Friend, and The Holy Spirit who gives life to all things.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

GREETING

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** You will come in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** May almighty God have mercy on us....

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

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms. Who lives and reigns

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 46:2-3, 6-9

R. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast, or Alleluia!

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **(R)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1: 17 - 23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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.



He is present both in heaven and on earth.

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

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. 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.
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, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. 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.**




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



info@
newrossparish.ie



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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	Event	Category
Sat 20th May	5.00pm	Nicholas & Sheila Doyle, Chambersland	Anniversaries
Sun 21st May - The Ascension of the Lord World Communications Day	8.00am	Rita Byrne, The Bosheen	Anniversary
	9.00am	Billy & Josie Swan, their Sons, Willie & Paddy, Blackhall, Killurin	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Liam & Philomena Bruen, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Anniversaries
	12.00 Noon	Bernard Kinsella, Knockmullen Thomas (Tom) Caulfield, Pondfields	Months Mind Months Mind
Mon 22nd May	8.00am	Eileen O'Keeffe, Cork	Recently Deceased
	10.00am	Aisling Dolan, Stephen's Court	5th Anniversary
	7.00pm	Rosary around the Grotto in Irishtown.	
Tues 23rd May	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Paddy, Julia & Joe Furlong & Bea Orr, Bewley Street	Anniversaries
	10.00 - 8.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
	7.00pm	Rosary around the Grotto in Irishtown.	
Wed 24th May	8.00am	Sr. Kathleen McGlynn, Dominican Sisters, Dublin	Recently Deceased
	10.00am	Sheila Roche, Bewley Street	Anniversary
	7.00pm	Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. O'Neill & Ms. Mears Class First Communion Preparation meeting in the Parish Church	
	7.00pm	Safeguarding Information Session in Brandon House Hotel. All Welcome.	
Thurs 25th May	8.00am	Sr. Margaret Mary Morris, Mount Carmel	Remembrance
	10.00am	John & Mary Butler & deceased family members, Rathnure	Anniversaries
	3.00- 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour	
	7.00pm	Rosary around the Grotto in Irishtown.	
Fri 26th May	7.30pm	Journey Through Grief Talk in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre. All Welcome	
	8.00am	Hannah & Michael Duignan, Piltown	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Catherine & James Walsh & family, Bewley Street	Anniversaries
Sat 27th May	7.00pm	Rosary around the Grotto in Irishtown.	
	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	11.00am	Ms. Fitzpatrick Class First Communion in Parish Church	
	1.00pm	Ms. O'Neill & Ms. Mears Class First Communion in Parish Church	
Sun 28th May - Pentecost	5.00pm	Bill & May Coleman, Old Post Office Lane	Anniversaries
	8.00am	JJ Conway, Cluain Fada	2nd Anniversary
	9.00am	Paula Leahy, Ard Mhicil	Birthday Remembrance
	10.00am	Tom & Margaret Howlett, Camblin	Anniversaries

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

Our Lady's (Left):
Special Intention
Altar (Centre):
-
St. Joseph's (Right):
-



Tuesday 23rd May 2023: CMT Schools Corner Margaret Rossiter interviews Billy O'Shea @ 8.04pm

Wednesday 24th May 2023: Diocesan Safeguarding Information Session in the Brandon House Hotel @ 7.00pm.

Wednesday 24th May 2023: Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. O'Neill & Ms. Mears Class First Communion Preparation meeting in Parish Church @ 7.00pm.

Saturday 27th May 2023: Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. O'Neill & Ms. Mears Class First Communion @ 11.00am & 1.00pm

Sunday 28th May 2023: Pentecost Sunday.

Sunday 4th June 2023: The Most Holy Trinity.

Monday 5th June 2023: Bank Holiday. Parish Office Closed.

Sunday 11th June 2023: The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi.


Friday 23rd June 2023: Patron St. Marys Cemetery @ 7.00pm

Sunday 25th June 2023: Patron in Mount Carmel after 8.00am Mass, in Priests Cemetery, Parish Church after 10.00am Mass & St. Stephens Cemetery @ 3.00pm.

Monday 7th August 2023: Bank Holiday. Parish Office Closed.

Tuesday 15th August 2023: Holy Day - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Vigil Mass @ 5.00pm Monday 14th August in Parish Church. Mass @ 8.00am in Mount Carmel, 10.00am & 1.05pm Tuesday 15th August in Parish Church.

Saturday 23rd - Friday 29th September 2023: New Ross Parish Mission.



**An Open Evening entitled:-
JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF
With DENIS O'CONNOR**
Date: Thursday 25th May 2023
Time: 7.30pm.
Venue: St Michael's Pastoral Centre,
Michael St., New Ross.
The event is organised by New Ross
Bethany Bereavement Support Group.

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 October 2023.

Next Weeks Readings: PENTECOST SUNDAY Acts 2: 1-11. Ps 103: 1, 24, 9-31, 34 R/ cf. v 30. 1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13. Jn 20: 19-23.

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. To maintain this valuable service, funding is greatly appreciated at any time. To donate € 10.00 on a monthly basis or on a once off payment / donation, please contact the Manager on 051-445711.

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 14th May 2023 @ € 2,061.04 (Envelopes No. 202 & 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 @ € 3.00 each.

Church Carpark: In the interest of safety we request Parking to take place in designated areas ONLY.

Parish Office / Shop in Legion of Mary Pastoral Centre: All items for sale are Blessed on the First Friday of every month.

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 Mary (May) Smith (nee Foley) Loughnageer, Foulksmills, Thomas Vincent Kearns, Enniscorthy & Killane & Derek Butler, Mount Carmel, who passed recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS: We remember and pray for the souls of Beatrice Boland, Charleton Hill & her Granddaughter Hayley Nolan, Sadie & Mattie Brazil, Charleton Hill, Robert & Rose Bennett, Ponfields & Nellie & Jimmy Brazil, Barrack Lane, who's anniversary 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.

CHURCH MUSEUM "Lest We Forget"


We opened our Church Museum officially on Sunday last. Some might say - why bother? What value is there is recalling or recording the past. We live in a "throw away" world where nothing seems to have value. Where there seems to be no permanence - here today and gone tomorrow. Certainly, it is not healthy to try to live in the past but whether we like it or not we are shaped by the past. So, if we ignore or deny our past, we won't know who we are or why we are as we are. We are as we are because of the history of the country; the history of the county; of the town and the story of our families. So, we can't really understand ourselves without remembering our origins. The tracing of family trees is popular today - a sign that we need to remember = that our full story cannot be told from the present time. The lives and actions and achievements of those gone before us have a direct influence on us today. We carry their names; we speak their language; in many cases we follow their professions and trades and continue their businesses. Keeping their memory fresh is our way of saying thanks to them. Our Museum will help to keep one part of our past fresh in our minds and in the minds of our young people. The caption on the door of the museum will help. It just says "LEST WE FORGET". Lest we forget the people who in the 1880s suggested the building of a new church to replace the one that had served the town for almost 100 years... now St. Mary's Theatre, South Street. The people who planned the project - designers, architects, builders, Tradesmen, collectors - the same names and families are in the church this morning. Not only are we fortunate to have a photo record of every stage of the building of the church, but we have a record of many of the planning meetings and discussions and the names of those who attended. We have a detailed record of the weekly subscriptions from the people of the parish -taken from the local paper. Just one example from Fr. Michael Kavanagh regarding the first collection taken up in December 1893..... Again, your family members of 130 years ago. We enjoy this beautiful place of prayer because of their generosity.

There will be a one day coach trip to Knock Shrine on Sunday July 2nd for the Ferns Diocesan Day Pick-up Points: Wellingtonbridge, Ramsgrange, Campile, and New Ross. Fare € 73 including two meals contact details Nicholas Bowe phone mobile 087 9418661.

PATRON'S 2023

Friday 23rd June 2023: Patron St. Marys Cemetery @ 7.00pm

Sunday 25th June 2023: Patron in Mount Carmel after 8.00am Mass, in Priests Cemetery, Parish Church after 10.00am Mass & St. Stephens Cemetery @ 3.00pm.



Parish Visitation: Fr. Tom is available during the coming week to visit any household or family in Cheries Road & Rivergate area's for house blessing or just a chat. Please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment.

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.