

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

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 is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns.....

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, 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. 84: 9-14

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. [R]
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. [R]
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. [R]

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat.

What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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.



The message of repentance during this season of Advent is a call to each one of us to look deeply into our lives, to renew and deepen our relationship with God.



Prepare a way for the Lord...
...he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. 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. We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection 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

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. 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.



How many of us see ourselves as followers rather than leaders? It's true, of course, that to be any good in leadership, a person must have spent time following. 'Paying your dues', isn't just a cliché in old films.

Taking responsibility is the profoundest act of leadership anyone can make, and it happens in the most apparently insignificant things. Doing something you know will benefit a wider group of people, serving a common good, is leadership, even when it's anonymous.

It isn't a prerequisite of the Society of St Vincent De Paul that members appear like John the Baptist, in garments of camel-skin and subsisting on a diet of locusts and wild honey. It is true, though, I believe, that there is something about the work of the SVP that chimes with who John the Baptist was.

John announces that in the grand scheme of things he is relatively insignificant but even in saying this much, he implies that he is necessary to what is coming and who is coming after him.

John's purpose is to draw attention to Christ who, at the stage St Mark refers to in the opening of his gospel, was probably one of John's own disciples.

The work of the SVP happens because the members of the Society believe it is the will of God and to do it effectively makes the presence of Christ real in the lives of everyone: those who ask for help and those who give it.

To turn out and turn up week after week and be present to those who approach us, especially in the mouth of Christmas, is to take on the mantle of the Baptist knowing that it is the love of Christ that compels us. We follow Christ but we know too that doing whatever we can, we announce the advent of Christ himself.

Leadership in the context of Christian faith is to embody in who we are ourselves the person and purpose of Christ, disciples made apostles, learners made leaders.

Paschal Scallon CM, Provincial Office, Vincentian Community

Jesus' Story *Fr. Liam Hickey*
John the Baptist came to tell people about Jesus, who was the Face of God's Love. He gathered people around a river and blessed them. We can always pray wherever we are. At Mass we are always reminded of ways God is present for us everyday, everywhere.

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

Date	Time		
Sat 9th Dec 2023	5.00pm	John Joe Meehan & his daughter, Marcella, Charleton Hill	20th Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass & Adoration	
Sun 10th Dec Second Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Declan Kehoe, Robert Street	1st Anniversary
	9.00am	Nancy Martin, Ard Na Greine	Birthday Remembrance
	10.00am	Nan Murphy, The Maudlins	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Deceased members of the Sheehan & Reynolds families, Wexford Street	Remembrance
Mon 11th Dec	8.00am	Jim & Bridget Hawe, Piltown	Anniversaries
	9.30am	The Rosary is recited every morning in the Parish Church from Monday to Saturday, however on the 1 st Saturday of the month the Novena to Our Lady of Fatima is held @ 9.15am.	
	10.00am	John & Maureen Nixon, Ard Mhicil	Anniversaries
Tues 12th Dec	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Patrick & Nancy Richardson & deceased family members, Fairgate	Anniversaries
	10.00am - 8.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Wed 13th Dec	8.00am	Con Nunan, Fethard On Sea	Recently Deceased
	10.00am	Joe Doyle, Castlebridge	Anniversary
Thurs 14th Dec	8.00am	Thomas St. Ledger & deceased family members, Charleton Hill	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Patrick Purcell, Mount Carmel	Anniversary
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Fri 15th Dec	8.00am	Anna & Thomas Sheehan, Cross Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Pearl & Colleen O'Hara, UK & New Ross	Anniversaries
Sat 16th Dec	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	11.30am	Live Nativity in Franciscan Friary, Wexford Town with Adoration & Confessions	
Sun 17th Dec Third Sunday of Advent	5.00pm	Peter Caufield, Knockmullen & Kilmore	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
	8.00am	Patrick Hamilton, Pondfields	Anniversary
	9.00am	Mary O'Hanlon (nee McGrath), Drumcondra, Dublin & New Ross	2nd Anniversary
Sun 18th Dec	10.00am	Ellen (Nellie) Doyle, Charleton Hill	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	John Allen, Charleton Hill	Months Mind

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions:
Available @ €10.00 / week.
Commencing Saturday @ 10.00am.

Our Lady's (Left):
William St. Ledger - RIP Altar (Centre):
Nancy Martin - Birthday Remembrance
St. Joseph's (Right):
Chrissie Aspel - Birthday Remembrance

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 14th December 2023: Advent Reflections "The Season of Waiting" in Room 3, St. Michael's Pastoral Centre @ 7.30pm. Organised by the Parish Lectio Divina Group. All Welcome

Friday 15th December 2023: Taize "Prepare the of the Lord" Advent Prayer Services every Friday 8.00 - 9.00pm the 15th & 22nd in Good Counsel College. All Welcome.

Monday 18th December 2023: Reconciliation Service @ 5.00pm

Friday 22nd December 2023: Parish Office closes for the Christmas period @ 2.00pm and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd Jan 2024 @ 10.30am.

Saturday 23rd December 2023: Mass in Parish Church @ 10.00am & 5.00pm. "Gloria In Excelsis Deo" Oh Come let us Adore Him Event from 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Confessions between 2.00 - 4.00pm.

Sunday 24th December 2023: Christmas Eve. Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00am & 8.00pm. Mass in Parish Church @ 9.00am, 10.00am & 12.00 Noon, 5.00pm & 7.00pm. Polish Mass in Parish Church @ 9.00pm.

Monday 25th December 2023: Christmas Day. Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00am. Mass in Parish Church @ 9.00am, 10.00am & 12.00 Noon.

Saturday 9th March 2024: Confirmations for pupils of Bunscoil Ris.

Saturday 25th May 2024: First Communions for pupils of Bunscoil Nic Amhlaidh & Educate Together.

NEW ROSS SINGERS
will be
Celebrating Christmas
on
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH 2023
at 7.30 pm
in
ST MARY'S CHURCH, NEW ROSS

Conductor: Connie Tantrum
Accompanist: Cecilia Kehoe

Voluntary contributions to local charities



The resilience of Children

RESILIENCE is the ability to cope with and recover from set backs. This photo is that definition in action. St. Ignatius of Loyola had a very simple way of praying. He began with what he called the **COMPOSITION OF PLACE**. In other words if you are praying a decade of the Rosary or thinking about some event in the life of Jesus, you should imagine the scene - picture the place, the people, listen to what is being said and say your own piece etc. Bring it alive in your own mind and see yourself as part of what is happening and then you will be able to keep your mind on the prayer.

CONSIDER THIS SCENE FROM GAZA LAST WEEK
Look at the **COMPOSITION OF PLACE** of the photo - destruction and nothing but the rubble of what once was houses, schools, shops & hospitals etc.

What these four children show us is the ability to cope with the worst situation. **HOW DO WE COPE** with experiences a million miles from what these children see every day?

In spite of their terrible experiences and the danger they are in, they calmly carry on a very ordinary activity - buying and selling. The "shopkeeper" has realised that children will continue to want sweets, no matter how bad things are. So he shows great business ability by first **SOURCING** supplies. That can't have been easy in the midst of war. Then he sets up shop and displays his merchandise - making the most of the few days cease fire.

The "customers" are equally impressed and very serious in their shopping - all the while displaying extraordinary calmness, oblivious of the danger around them.

And give some thought to the girl onlooker. How beautifully "turned out" she is. Dressed to the nines, colour co-ordinated and her hair a work of art.

Just imagine the conditions from which she emerged that morning and yet she maintains her dignity, refusing to allow the terrible reality of her life to change or control her. Such self-awareness and courage in one so young!

A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS.

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.

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 Harry Grennan, Deerpark, Bunclody, Wendy (Winnie) Cahill (nee Forkin), Tower Grove & Kilmovee, Mayo & Kevin Patrick Roche, Fenagh, Carlow & New Ross, who passed recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS: We remember & pray for the souls of Dolores Sutton, Southknock, Brendan O'Leary (6th Anniversary), The Bosheen, Brian Dunphy, Southknock, Paschal Murphy (3rd Anniversary), Hewittsland, Declan Kehoe (1st Anniversary), Robert Street, James Whelan, Ryleen & deceased family members & Johnny Connors, (9th Anniversary), Naas, Kildare, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

BAPTISMS: Baptisms take place on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday each month @ 1.00pm. Minimum two weeks notice is required and a maximum of two candidates per booking. To book your child's baptism, please contact the parish office. Bookings are secured on receipt of baptismal booking forms with a copy of the candidates Birth Certificate and Photographic ID for the Guardian.

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.

HISTORY NOTES - PART IV

Mount Carmel Lace
The Mount Carmel sisters arrived in town in 1817 and established a school for poor children which survived until 1932. They also founded an industrial school in 1833 which provided training and employment for local girls, learning sewing, crochet and other fancy needlework. The sisters bought a piece of fancy lace from a travelling salesman, and Mother Ann Dalton spent many hours of tedious work unravelling the purchase and learning the techniques and skills of Venetian lace making. Local girls and women were trained and lace making became a cottage industry for supply of beautiful varieties of rose-point, flat-point and needle-point lace. At its peak there were seventy local women employed in manufacture and the lace was soon winning awards at exhibitions all over Europe and the Americas. Some gold medals won at exhibitions in Edinburgh and Chicago were embedded in the foundation stone of our parish church which was laid in 1895. Mount Carmel lace was supplied for papal coronation robes, and for Empress Elisabeth of Austria and many other well known personalities including President Kennedy on his visit to town. But from early 20th century the demand for lace declined; then with the coming of synthetic materials it was gone forever.

Bishop Ger Nash, following a meeting with local representatives from the Society of St Vincent de Paul, has called for a generous response to the Annual Church Gate Collection which will take place after all masses in our diocese on the weekend of 16th/17th December. With nationwide calls for help already at almost 200,000 to date this year the Society expects calls at the end of this year to well exceed last year's record number of 230,000.

These figures were announced by National President Rose McGowan at the launch of the SVP Annual Appeal. This year's Annual Appeal is focused on providing help to struggling parents who wonder how they will provide a Happy Christmas for their families. The campaign is entitled "*The Wonder of Christmas*" and subtitled "*Will we have Christmas at all?*" Ms McGowan also added that according to the latest CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions there are over 670,000 people at risk of poverty in Ireland, almost 875,000 people were experiencing enforced deprivation and going without essentials and over 265,000 live in consistent poverty.

Bishop Ger commended the work of so many volunteers who give so selflessly of their time to assist with the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul throughout the Diocese and beyond and has asked mass goers to respond as generously as they can to the upcoming collection.

