

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

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

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us.....
Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

FIRST READING *Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11*
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,

as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. Lk.1)

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **[R]**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **[R]**

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **[R]**

SECOND READING *1Thessalonians 5:16-24*

A reading from the first letter from St. Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *John 1:6-8. 19-28*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) 17th December 2023

The coming of Christ is a message of joy: a joy founded and rooted in God's love and care for his people, and his promise of an eternal companionship.



PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. 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

Say to the faint of heart:
Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. 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.



Everyone's life is a witness to something. Foster and adoptive parents give a child a whole new life, often at great financial and emotional cost to themselves. They bear witness to humanity's compassion and care for others. The doctors and nurses of

Doctors without Borders go into war zones, at great peril to themselves, in order to give new life to those who have been injured in conflict. They witness to the heroic selflessness which lie within human beings. In their lives, they, like John the Baptist, witness to the One who came that "they may have life and have it to the full." Others, perhaps very damaged by their life experiences, who care only for money regardless of the hurt they cause to others, witness to the self-centredness which also lies inside each of us.

Jesus came to show, first Israel, then the whole world, how to live as the People of God. John the Baptist pointed him out when he came, but many rejected Jesus' message of caring and sharing and universal love. Some, especially the religious leaders, also rejected the messenger; John the Baptist, like Jesus, was also put to death.

Today, we are all called to be John the Baptist, witnessing to Jesus' continuing presence in our world with his message of universal love. We may not end up with our head on a plate, but witnessing to Jesus' love for the poor and unwanted can sometimes be seriously detrimental to our popularity!

Fr. Peter McVerry

Jesus' Story


Fr. Liam Hickey

John the Baptist told the people that he was not The Jesus promised to come. He said that he was "A Voice." A voice is a wonder. What makes a voice? Who makes a voice? Poets tell us that everything that exists has a voice ... a story to tell. A Tree has a voice. A flower has a voice. The ballad singer's voice delights people. The baby's voice makes us laugh. May we use our voices to give good to the world and praise the glory of God.



New Ross Parish, Church of St. Mary & St. Michael





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Date	Time		
Sat 16th Dec 2023	5.00pm	Peter Caulfield, Knockmullen & Kilmore	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sun 17th Dec Third Sunday of Advent 	8.00am	Patrick Hamilton, Pondfields	6th Anniversary
	9.00am	Mary O'Hanlon (nee McGrath), Drumcondra, Dublin & New Ross	2nd Anniversary
	10.00am	Ellen (Nellie) Doyle, Charleton Hill	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	John Allen, Charleton Hill	Months Mind
Mon 18th Dec	8.00am	Sr. Mary Catherina Murphy, Carmelites New Ross & Loughrea, Galway	Remembrance
	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	Joseph, Patricia (Patty), JJ & Pat Kavanagh, Bewley Street	Anniversaries
	5.00pm	Reconciliation Service	
Tues 19th Dec 	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Rita & Pat Reidy, Limerick	Anniversaries
	10.00am - 8.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Wed 20th Dec	8.00am	Lorraine Murphy, Fethard On Sea	Remembrance
	10.00am	Bridget & Bernard Rowe, The Bullawn	Anniversaries
Thurs 21st Dec 	8.00am	Christmas Novena 1	
	10.00am	Margaret & Paddy Flynn, Stokestown	Anniversaries
	3.00pm - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
	7.30pm	Advent Reflections "The Season of Waiting" in Room 3, St. Michael's Pastoral Centre.	
Fri 22nd Dec 	8.00am	Nancy & Jimmy Martin & Patricia Fitzgerald, Ard Na Greine	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Elizabeth & John Cooney, Robert Street	Anniversaries
	12.00 Noon	CBS Secondary School Carol Service	
	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Taize "Prepare the of the Lord" Advent Prayer Services in Good Counsel College.	
Sat 23rd Dec	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	1.00pm - 4.00pm	"Gloria In Excelsis Deo" Oh Come let us Adore Him Event	
	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	
	5.00pm	Laurence (Larry) Doyle, Hazeldean, Arnestown	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sun 24th Dec Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve 	8.00am	Christmas Novena 2	
	9.00am	Dolores Sutton, Southknock	Anniversary
	10.00am	Pat & John McCarthy, Ryleen	Anniversaries
	12.00 Noon	Molly Crowdle, Irishtown	25th Anniversary
	5.00pm	Parish Mass Association	
	7.00pm	Stella, Robert & Nicholas Katus, Lower Michael Street	Anniversaries
	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Christmas Novena 3	Mount Carmel



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: On We are currently taking mass bookings up to and including May 2024.

Next Weeks Readings: Fourth Sunday of Advent - 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29, R/ cf. v 2. Rm 16: 25-27. Lk 1: 26-38.

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 3rd December 2023 @ € 2,332.16 & 10th December 2023 @ € 2323.34 (Envelopes No. 411 & 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. We can also accept donations over the telephone. Please ring 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: Come and join our Group every Wednesday morning at 10.45am in the Pastoral Centre and experience God in our lives through the Sunday Gospel.


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.



Parish Office can now take card payments over the telephone.



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.





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

Our Lady's (Left): The Bowe Family - RIP
Altar (Centre): John Bowe - Anniversary
St. Joseph's (Right): The Ryan Family - RIP

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the souls of Simon Ronan, Tullow, Carlow & Butlersland, Mary Lyng, Irishtown, Thomas Murphy, Rosbercon, James Furlong, Ballyvelig, Campile & Darrin Skipp, Glenbarra, Rosbercon, who passed recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS: We remember & pray for the souls of John (Non) Nolan, Stevenage, UK & Charleton Hill, Grace Lee, Mount Carmel, Laurence (Larry) Ryan, Dowsleys Barn, Kieran O'Grady, Mountgarrett, Bridget (2nd Anniversary) & Joe (3rd Anniversary) O'Mahoney, Camblin, Jerry O'Rourke, Ballyrue, Maura & Gerard Flynn, Tramore, Waterford & Rosbercon, Ann Doyle, Ard Mhicil, Ger St. Ledger, Tower Grove, Pat Hamilton, Pondfields & Ellen (Nellie) Larkin, Mary Street, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

WEDDINGS: We congratulate Maria O'Shea & Walter Ryan, Riverview who were married recently in our Parish Church.

BAPTISMS: We welcome into our Christian community Chloe Kent, Lower Southknock, who was baptised recently in our Parish Church. 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.



GLORIA
IN EXCELSIS DEO
'O COME LET US ADORE HIM'
Eucharistic Adoration
Nativity Crib
Candle-Lit Atmosphere
Christmas Carols
SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2023
VISIT ANYTIME BETWEEN 1.00 PM - 4.00 PM
ST MARY'S & ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, NEW ROSS, CO WEXFORD

BENEMENDI MEDAL presented last weekend by Bishop Ger Nash to FRANCES COONEY for life-long voluntary service to the parish of New Ross.



HISTORY NOTES - PART V

The Crouched Friars (Part 1)

Little is recorded of this religious order in town. Their name Crouched (cruciferii in Latin) came from their habit which had a large red cross sewn on the back or front. Their house may have been founded and endowed by William Marshall on the occasion of King John's visit to New Ross in 1210. Located roughly in the area now occupied by the Lidl supermarket premises, the order was empowered to collect levies or taxes on shipping in the emerging prosperous town. In time these taxes became oppressive and unpopular and are thought to have been the source of a row between the friars and burgesses (traders) which resulted in the death of a principal townsman. According to tradition, the town rose up and in the conflict three friars were killed or drowned and their monastery was sacked and burned. The remaining friars were expelled and are reputed to have put a curse on the town and river as they departed. The event caused an international scandal and brought the thunder of Rome down on New Ross. The town was placed under interdict, so that public Mass was prohibited, burials were suspended and other religious restrictions remained in operation until the interdict was eventually lifted. It is unclear how long the interdict remained in place, but it may have ended before the Franciscans arrived in 1279 to take over the old Crouched Friar's premises. However, the story of the interdict continued to echo down the centuries and will be the subject of a later note.

Courtesy of Jim Sutton