FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24th December 2023

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 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16 A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan,'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king,'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David,"Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that

place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 88)

R. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,

that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. [R]

2. 'With my chosen one I have made a covenant;

I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

3. He will say to me:'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. [R]

SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27 A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said
be done to me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Luke 1:26-38**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her,'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this

greeting could mean, but the angel said to her,'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.'Mary said to the angel. 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

<u>SANCTUS</u>

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.

Mary accepted the life of God into her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit thus bringing God's salvation into the world. Let us open our hearts to welcoming Jesus into our lives this Christmas.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24th December 2023



Focus

immediately to help her out.

Someone asked a Christian how the teachings of Confucius and Buddha would differ from those of Christ. He responded with a story.

A woman fell into a deep hole. Try as she might, she could not get out. Confucius came along and looked in. He said, "Poor woman, if you had paid attention to me, you would not have fallen in there in the first place." He kept walking. The Buddha approached. He too spotted the woman and said to himself. "If she can just manage to get out of that hole, I can give her great help in the form of wisdom to live by." And he continued his journey. Finally, along came Jesus. He spotted the woman. He was moved with compassion and jumped in

We gather at this Mass on Christmas Eve to celebrate the concern God has for each of us. His eager willingness to jump in and help us is illustrated by the birth of his Son in our world. St. Irenaeus summed up this feast well when he wrote: "God became man so that we might become God." It has been well said that Christmas is a gift that we cannot keep until we give it to someone else. Christ is always with us, especially in the poor, always asking for room in our hearts. As we pray for peace and wish the peace of Christ to one another, may we be mindful that peace is much more than a season. It is a state of mind and a way of life.

Fr. Joe Walsh

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

We listen to The Angeleus Bell because of Mary. She listened to the Angel when God invited her to have The Baby Jesus. It is a good prayer to listen to the sound of the Bell, and let the sound pass through from the top of the head to the little toe of one's foot in silence. It is also good to put a hand on one's heart in silence, during the ringing of The Bell..

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd.

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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 Cads 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)







Visit us on Facebook/New 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	LIVE 7	
Date	Time			
Sat 23rd Dec 2023	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 Katus, Lower Michael Street	3rd Anniversary	
	8.00pm Mount Carmel	Christmas Novena 3		
	9.00pm	Polish Community Mass		
Mon 25th Dec - Christmas Day CHRISTMAS DAY	8.00am	Sr. Mary Catherina Murphy, Carmelites New Ross & Loughrea, Galway	Remembrance	
	9.00am	Willie, Anne & Nicky Murphy, Priory Street	Anniversaries	
	10.00am	Christmas Novena 6		
	12.00 Noon	Christmas Novena 7		
Tues 26th Dec	8.00am	Christmas Novena 8		
	10.00am - 8.00pm	There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration		
	10.00am	Christmas Novena 9		
	6.00pm	Polish Community Mass		
Wed 27th Dec	8.00am	JJ Kavanagh, Nunnery Lane	20th Anniversary	
	10.00am	Christmas Novena 5		
Thurs 28th Dec	8.00am	Carmelite family, friends & benefactors	Remembrance	
	10.00am	Richard, Anna, Val & Jimmy Reynolds, Kilkenny & USA & Irene Cramer, Maypark, Waterford	Remembrance	
	3.00pm - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in Blessed Sacrament Chapel		
Fri 29th Dec	8.00am	Intentions of the people of the Parish		
	10.00am	Michael & Annie Cleere, their son, Patrick & deceased family members, The Maudlins	Anniversaries	
Sat 30th Dec	10.00am	Parish Mass Association		
	5.00pm	Michael Cashin, Woodbine Close	1st Anniversary	
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass		
Sun 31st Dec - The	8.00am	Ita Meaney, Ballyanne	Anniversary	
Holy Family of	9.00am	Michael Sidney and his son, Billy, "Arch House", Neville Street	Anniversaries	
Jesus Mary & Joseph	10.00am	Jack Richardson, Pondfields & Danny Richardson, South Africa Live on Southeast Radio	Anniversaries	
NEW YEAR'S EVE	12.00 Noon	Special Healing Intention	Special Intention	

Christmas Message from Bishop Ger Nash



As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ this year, our hearts are moved by the images of small children that we have seen over the past few months. The terrible tragedy of Israel and Gaza, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the persistent and life-destroying famine in East Africa, are all the more shocking when we see their impact on the lives of children. The terror of hunger, fear or maiming should be far from every child's life and yet we see it daily in our media. It is right to reflect on these matters as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the baby who was God himself.

The world into which Jesus was born was as destructive to childhood as ours in many similar ways: hunger, homelessness, seeking and being refused refuge and being the victim of political leaders' power struggles. There was no social media to carry the instant story and yet, the events of Bethlehem and Nazareth have echoed down the years, changing people's hearts from stone to flesh, their lives from hatred to love. As we prepare for Christmas this year, let us pray that the telling of the Christmas story will give us a new impetus to leave aside hatred, jealousy, judgmental attitudes and allow us to see the life-changing effect of letting love in.

The Christmas story began with Mary and her acceptance of her place in God's plan. Human, like the rest of us, she could not see all that it would entail of joy and sorrow, but at the moment of the Annunciation she was willing to let God's love work through her. She was truly faithful in the sense that she trusted God and felt that great things could happen if she said yes.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, the challenge given to us is much smaller but no less significant. Can we say yes over the holiday period to children, to the elderly and to the lonely or recently bereaved? Not just by giving material things but also by giving people our attention – the gift of noticing them and making them feel visible and loved in the world. Throughout his life, Jesus welcomed the outsider, the

marginalized and assured them that being included was God's plan for them. We will have plenty of opportunities to do this over Christmas and the year ahead. It is in small things, kind words, a welcoming smile, a helping hand that the Kingdom of God is found and our chance to build God's Kingdom is when we take the opportunities to do that.

Throughout the Diocese, the year has been a busy one with many gatherings to plan and to ponder what God is calling us to in these years. These meetings have resulted in a great number of people offering to participate in training and planning for the future. It is truly a sign of God at work in our Diocese at this time and we should take great heart from it.

We are at a time of great change in the church – as Pope Francis calls it, a change of era – but we can look forward with hope to God doing great things in all our lives. With that thought in our hearts and minds, let us see in Mary, God's mother, a model for journeying in faith without knowing where the journey will take us.

I wish all who see this message the Hope and Joy of Christmas, the confidence to see that God is at work in every person and the courage to fearlessly bring about change in the time and place where we live.

Bishop Ger





Sanctuary Lamp Intentions:

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

Our Lady's (Left): Oweny Furlong, Ballyrue - RIP

Altar (Centre): The Boland Family, Charleton Hill - RIP

St. Joseph's (Right): Lena & Bernard Furlong,

Cherry's Road - RIP

RECENTLY DECEASED: We pray for the souls of Benny Rowe, The Maudlins, Frances Kelly (nee Roche), Parkfield & Maria Hoff (nee Jons), Talbot Hall, who passed recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS: We remember & pray for the souls of Josephine Connolly, Pondfields, Michael O'Donnell, Mountgarrett, Martin & Jim O'Neill, Cross Street, Betty, William & Christopher Kelly, Charleton Hill, Molly Crowdle (25th Anniversary), Irishtown, Stella, Robert & Nicholas Katus, Lower Michael Street, William St. Ledger, Mount Carmel, Ned Cash Junior, Hospital Road, Bridget Moroney (2nd Anniversary), Lacken Valley, James Maddock, The Bullawn & Dawn Pyne (12th Anniversary), Mount Carmel, whose anniversaries

<u>CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE</u>: We remember & pray for the souls of the King & Davis Families, Carmel & Jimmy Hosey, Navan, Co. Meath, Ned & Margaret Cash & Ned Junior, Hospital Road & Paddy Murphy, Mount Carmel, 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 VI

occur around this time.

The Crouched Friars (Part 2)

The interdiction of New Ross in the 1200s following the killing and expulsion of the Crouched Friars and mentioned in a previous note, would have introduced an air of doom, distress and tragedy in town. It is unclear when the interdict was lifted, but the town quickly entered into a golden age of wealth, power and prestige. For a century and a half trade grew until New Ross was the principal port of Ireland. It was not until 1435 when the town began to fall on evil days that the Crouched Friars affair darkened the pages of the town's chronicle. In that year Pope Eugenius IV issued a Bull absolving the town which was officially promulgated by Robert Whitty, Bishop of Ferns in St. Mary's Church. While it is unlikely, it was popularly accepted that the town remained continuously under interdict from the killing of the friars until the presentation of this Bull; a period of almost 200 years. The papal Bull of Pope Eugenius may have been in confirmation of an earlier Bull by Pope John prompted by Bishop Barrett who had already moved his episcopal chair from Ferns to St. Mary's in New Ross. The final mention in official records of the Friars curse is in 1632 when Bishop John Roche appealed to Rome to have it removed. There is no doubt that the Crouched Friars incident caused public concern in town over the centuries. The tale was commonly repeated into the last century when townsfolk anxiously counted the drowning in the Barrow in fulfilment of the Friars ancient curse of three drowning in the river each year. **Courtesy of Jim Sutton**



Glory to God in the Highest.

We wish all our parishioners and friends a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

On behalf of the Parish Office Staff and Ourselves we wish volunteers who have helped throughout the year in any way, a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas.

As there are so many to mention individually, we have included you in our Novena list during the Christmas Season.

Monsignor Joseph McGrath, Fr. Tom Orr, Martha, Breda, John & Wendy.

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.