

Advent is a reminder that our life on earth is a preparation for the life of eternity in heaven; and that we wait for the coming of Christ to take us home.



Stay awake



We begin Advent and a new Church year with a reading from a section of Mark's Gospel known as the 'Apocalyptic Discourse'. This is Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples where sketches an image of the world which will be hostile to his message and to his followers. In the final parable, Jesus urges total trust in God's cosmic plan and calls for vigilance: 'Keep awake'. And, whether we like it or not, this text is also addressed to each of us: 'What I say to you, I say to all.' The story of Jesus is told to bring readers into a greater awareness, to help spiritual growth and transformation in life. Mark's first audience experienced many obstacles as they lived under the fear of persecution, but the greater danger expressed in this text is the danger of sleepwalking through life.

While this might not sound like a very cheery text with which to begin the joyful season of Advent, we dare to read this narrative through the lens of hope. Instead of worrying about when the 'master of the house' will return, we can focus instead on what we do in our daily lives to aid our own awakening: perhaps we need to slow down in order to wake up, to create quiet spaces for ourselves, to reflect a little more deeply, to find the stillness we truly need. Challenges lie ahead, that much is guaranteed, but so do amazing possibilities. For great things can happen when we truly wake up and respond to the reality of the world around us. Let awe and wonder grow and be prepared for the coming of the true Christmas Gift.

Jane Mellett

Adapted from "The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Mark" (Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2003).

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Many people think that God is far away, and is like a judge watching our faults. Jesus is always inviting us to see God in a new way, to 'wake up,' that we have A Loving Father, who always loves us in good days and sad days. God is near and present in the beauty of the world and all its colours, green grass and flowers, rivers and mountains, sport and new exciting ideas. God's special presence is in the new baby and the faces of all people. Going to Mass celebrates God with us all the time.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

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

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us....

Amen.



(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ

with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways

and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. 79)

R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. [R]

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. [R]

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. [R]

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming,

evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. 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.

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

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God who is without beginning and without end. The purple ribbon and three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The red candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love. Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparations for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.



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.



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. Robin Photo by Tom Clements. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Tolka Valley Business Park, Ballyboggan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

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



Visit us on
Facebook/New
Ross Parish

Volume 42. No. 49

Radio Mass 104.7Fm & LIVE STREAM ON PARISH WEBSITE. All 8.00am Masses are in Mount Carmel Monastery Chapel			
Date	Time		
Sat 2nd Dec 2023	5.00pm	Kathleen Bowe (nee Ryan), Convent Hill	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sun 3rd Dec First Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Special Intentions	
	9.00am	Phil & Liam Bruen, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Alice Cullen, "Hillcrest", Cross Street Live on Southeast Radio	Anniversary
Mon 4th Dec	8.00am	Billy O'Connor, Bawnmore Terrace	18th Anniversary
	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 Bowe, Abbey Hall	49th Anniversary
Tues 5th Dec	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Eoghan Brennan, Tower Grove	4th Anniversary
Wed 6th Dec	8.00am	Sr. Lapura, Carmelites in India	Recently Deceased
	10.00am	Mary Caulfield & the Flynn Family, Charleton Hill	33rd Anniversary
Thurs 7th Dec	8.00am	Pauline McCormack (nee Walsh), Greystone, Wicklow	Anniversary
	10.00am	Richard, Anna, Val & Jimmy Reynolds, Kilkenny & USA & Irene Cramer, Maypark, Waterford	Anniversaries
	3.00 - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Fri 8th Dec - Holy Day Feast of the Immaculate Conception	5.00pm	Mary O'Neill, Irishtown	Anniversary
	7.30pm	Advent Reflections "The Season of Waiting" in Room 3, St. Michael's Pastoral Centre.	
Sat 9th Dec	8.00am	Ned & Mona Walsh, William Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Annie Higginbotham (nee O'Neill), Wexford Street	Anniversary
	1.05pm	Bill Lenehan, Hospital Road	Anniversary
Sun 10th Dec Second Sunday of Advent	5.45pm	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Candlelight Procession after mass in Rowe Street Church, Wexford - Organised by the Legion of Mary, Wexford	
	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Taizé "Prepare the of the Lord" Advent Prayer Services for four weeks including 15th & 22nd of December in Good Counsel College. All Welcome.	
Sun 10th Dec	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	John Joe Meehan & his daughter, Marcella, Charleton Hill	20th Anniversary
Sun 10th Dec	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
	8.00am	Declan Kehoe, Robert Street	1st Anniversary
	9.00am	Nancy Martin, Ard Na Greine	Birthday Remembrance
Sun 10th Dec	10.00am	Nan Murphy, The Maudlins	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon		

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions:

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

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 1st December 2023: Taize "Prepare the of the Lord" Advent Prayer Services every Friday 8.00 - 9.00pm for four weeks including the 8th, 15th & 22nd in Good Counsel College. All Welcome.

Thursday 7th December 2023: Advent Reflections "The Season of Waiting" commence in Room 3, St. Michael's Pastoral Centre @ 7.30pm. Organised by the Parish Lectio Divina Group. All Welcome

Friday 8th December 2023: Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass @ 5.00pm Thursday 7th December 2023 in Parish Church. Mass @ 8.00am in Mount Carmel, 10.00am & 1.05pm Friday 8th December in Parish Church. Parish Office closed. Candlelight procession after 5.45pm Mass in Rowe Street Church, Wexford. Organised by the Legion of Mary Wexford.

Sunday 10th December 2023: Annual SVP collection will take place after all masses.

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 Ahmlaidh & Educate Together.

Anam Cara South East will host its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Tuesday 12th December at 7:15pm in the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross.** This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

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: 1st Sunday of Advent - Ez 34: 11-12, 15-17. Ps 22: 1-3, 5-6, R/ v 1. 1 Cor 15: 20-26, 28. Mt 25: 31-46.

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 26th November 2023 @ € 1,662.43 (Envelopes No. 152 & 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.

SumUp Parish Office can now take card payments over the telephone.

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 Ellen Kelly, Ballinabearna, Ballywilliam, Nancy Phelan (nee Coughlan), Tacumshane, late of School House Road, Rosbercon, Nannie Roche (nee Somers), London & formerly Charleton Hill & Michael Cantebury, West Hampstead, London, who passed recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS: We remember & pray for the souls of Lynn Bennett, Chicago, USA, Nano Kehoe (20th Anniversary), Ard Na Greine, Eoghan Brennan (4th Anniversary), Tower Grove, Pat & John McCarthy, Ryleen, Philo O'Kennedy and his parents, Eileen & Gus O'Kennedy, Marymount, Godfrey Hill (11th Anniversary), Butlersland, Jack Shannon, Henry Street & Bernadette (Detta) Wilson (17th Anniversary), Robert Street, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

BAPTISMS: We welcome into our Christian community, Indie Butler, Mount Carmel, Axl & Alex Cullen, Charleton Hill, who were 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.

HISTORY NOTES - PART 111

The Mystery Window


High over the main entrance to St. Michael's Theatre (formerly the parish church), and immediately under the roof apex, sat a small circular blanked window, scarcely noticed. During the 1960s an opportunity presented itself for closer examination, which revealed that the object was not a window at all. Removal of its soft plaster covering revealed a beautifully carved papal coat of arms in sandstone. The blanking with plaster caused local curiosity and prompted investigation. This revealed that during the early years of the 1900s, a major national public health campaign was under way, and Lady Aberdeen, its patron, was due to speak in New Ross. Lady Aberdeen was wife of the viceroy who represented the King of England, and the town fathers considered that it was not appropriate to expect her ladyship to enter the lecture venue with the papal insignia overhead. A hurried plastering job was carried out, and the matter was quickly forgotten and passed from local memory. The papal coat of arms still adorns St. Michael's front wall, almost unnoticed.

Courtesy of Jim Sutton



"Prepare the way of the Lord..."

Isaiah 40:3-5



Advent Prayer Services

commencing
Fridays : 1. 8. 15. 22 December 2023
from 8-9pm
Good Counsel College Church,
New Ross. Y34 R297
Taizé services are ecumenical Christian prayer & song
All Welcome

New Ross St Vincent de Paul Annual Church Collection will take place on **9th and 10th December 2023.** We thank you for your generous support.

We are looking for **new members** to join our conference and if anyone would like to help us in our work in New Ross, please phone St Vincent de Paul No. **085 831 3073**

There will be a **Christmas Craft Fair in Campile Hall on Sunday 10th of December from 10am until 4pm** featuring handmade crafts from all over County Wexford and beyond.

There will also be tickets for **Mike Denver Concert** for sale at the Craft Fair to be in held in **Campile Hall on Sunday 24th of March 2024.** An ideal Christmas present to be purchased in advance.

PARISH OFFICE / SHOP:
CLOSED FOR HOLY DAY 8th DECEMBER.
Christmas stock now in, including a wide selection of Christmas Mass Cards, Novena Cards & Parish Christmas Greeting Cards & many other gift ideas for all your friends & family.

Catholics in the South East of Ireland Facebook Group invites you to join our next Book Club Meetup on **Saturday 16th December, 2023, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Club House Hotel, Kilkenny R95 DX76.** Book: **Theology for Beginners** by Frank Sheed. Contact Gissell at **087-761-7792.**

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.