

(Laetare Sunday)

Jesus offers a message of hope and salvation to the whole world.



Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert



A Christian should never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! We traditionally think of Lent as a time of penance, fasting and prayer and can't wait for it to end. We rarely see it as a time of joy. But Lent is based on our belief that we live, every moment of our lives, in the knowledge that we are loved, infinitely and unconditionally, by God. Gratitude is the only foundation on which we can build an authentic relationship with God. And so, like Jesus, who spent forty days in the desert, discerning God's will for him and rejecting the temptations which would divert him from doing God's will, we too, in gratitude for being loved by God, reflect during Lent on God's will for us. Like Jesus, we are all surrounded by many temptations, which can, subtly and unsuspectingly, divert us from doing God's will. "Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades." (The Joy of the Gospel, Ch 1 v 2). Laetare (meaning: rejoice) Sunday is a reminder that our penance, fasting and prayer, in the search for God's will, is always a time of rejoicing, as we allow the Spirit to challenge us and lead us to a closer relationship with God.

Fr. Peter McVerry

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus tells us today that God The Father loves our world with all its beauty, the stars, the sea, the mountains, the rivers and all animals and fish that live there. We, God's Children, are His greatest creation. Sometimes we forget God and we begin to fight with each other and disrespect our world. When we talk to Jesus His Spirit always helps us to notice God's gifts, like family, friends and the people that keep roads and parks tidy and bright.



PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. 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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And with your spirit.

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 is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. 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.

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen. The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord. For we have sinned against you. Show us, O Lord, your mercy. And grant us your salvation. Amen.

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

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the 2nd book of Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his

kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 136:1-6

R. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. (R)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither (R)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R)



SECOND READING Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted

up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God. '

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.



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
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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

Date	Time	Event	Notes
Sat 9th March	5.00pm	Bridget Higginbotham (nee Dalton), The Bosheen	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sun 10th Mar 2024	8.00am	Matt & Molly Crowdle, Irishtown	Anniversaries
Fourth Sunday of Lent & Mother's Day	9.00am	Nancy Martin, Ard na Greine	Remembrance
	10.00am	Joan Cashin, William Street	Anniversary
	10.00am	Communion Preparation Mass	
	12.00 Noon	Thomas (Tom) O'Shea, Newtown Commons & Piltown, Kilkenny Philomena Furlong (nee Furlong), Newtown Road, Wexford & Bewley Street	Months Mind Months Mind
Mon 11th March	8.00am	Martin & Nancy Byrne, Camblin	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	Eily O'Donoghue, Waterford	Anniversary
	7.00pm	Ministers of the Word (Readers) Induction Training meeting in Parish Church	
Tues 12th March	8.00am	Intentions of the people of the Parish	
	10.00am	Peg & Paddy Cleary, Priory Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am - 8.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Wed 13th March	8.00am	Special Intentions	Special Intentions
	10.00am	Jim Connors, Harvey Place	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Ministers of the Eucharist Induction Training meeting in Parish Church	
Thurs 14th March	8.00am	Brini & Ann Dolan, Riverview & Dublin	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Clodagh Kehoe (nee Cleere), Brooklawn	3rd Anniversary
	3.00pm - 4.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Fri 15th March	8.00am	Joseph, Billy, Berna & Gerard Long, St. Mullins, Carlow	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Michael Browne, Chapel Lane	6th Anniversary
	7.00pm	Remembering our Emigrants & Immigrants. Lenten Programme will take place every Friday evening during Lent 16th Feb - 29th March.	
Sat 16th March	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	Margaret & Johnny Rigley (nee Kane), Southknock	1st & 18th Anniversaries
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sun 17th March	8.00am	The deceased people from Bewley Street	
Fifth Sunday of Lent & St. Patrick's Day.	9.00am	Tony & Claire O' Flynn, Hospital Road	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Kevin Cottrell, Neville Street	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Eileen Furlong, William Street Mai Fennelly (nee Reynolds), Callan Kilkenny & New Ross	Months Mind Months Mind

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

Our Lady's (Left):
Clodagh Kehoe (nee Cleere) - RIP

Altar (Centre):
Patricia Fitzgerald - Remembrance

St. Joseph's (Right):
Joan & Nicholas Cashin - Remembrance

Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
Michael Browne - RIP

RECENTLY DECEASED:
We pray for the souls of - Catherine (Kathleen) Furness (nee Whelan), Charleton Hill, Raymond Ashby, Tinneranny, Rosbercon, Shiela Dore (nee Wallace), Blenheim Heights Waterford, Annamai Merrigan (nee Smith), Parkfield, Kathleen Kerrigan (nee Saunders), Courthoyle, Adamstown and Anne Kilbride (nee Fouhy), Castlelyons, Cork & Ballyanne, who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

MOTHERS DAY REMEMBRANCE:
We remember on this day - Patricia Fitzgerald, Nunnery Lane.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Pat Hamilton, Cross Street, Stephen Tubritt (3rd Anniversary), Fethard On Sea, Brini Dolan, Riverview, Ann Dolan, Dublin, Anna Bradley (20th Anniversary), Knockavilla, Michael Browne, Chapel Lane & John Byrne (20th Anniversary), London, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

BAPTISMS:
We welcome into our Christian Community - Caroline Mutizira & Makomborero Ganda, Barrow Hall, Mia Bannville, Cluain Fada, Robyn Long, Stephens Court & Zishen (Jason) Lin, North Quay, 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.

Lenten Programme: St. Mary's & St. Michael's Parish Church, New Ross @ 7.00pm
Remembering our Emigrants & Immigrants - 15th, Stations of the Cross - 22nd & Jesus Speaks from the Cross - 29th March

Anam Cara South East will host its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Tuesday 12th March 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: We are currently taking Mass bookings up to and including August 2024.

Next Weeks Readings: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Jer 31:31-34. Ps 50:3-4, 12-15, R/ v 12. Heb 5:7-9. Jn 12:20-30

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 25th February 2024 @ € 1,655.68 (Envelopes No. 178 & 2nd Collection combined). 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: ALL DAY PARKING PROHIBITED. Church grounds constitute a sacred space. Parking is reserved exclusively for Church users. 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.

History Notes—Part XV

The Old Market in Robert Street

Our parish Church of St. Mary & Michael stands on the grounds of what once was the town's Market premises in Robert Street. This market was built by the Corporation in 1818 to accommodate farmers and other traders who brought their produce weekly for sale in the town. It covered half an acre of ground and was surrounded on three sides by a range of well built single storey sheds with open archways ten feet apart on three sides of the site. There was a fine lodge at the entrance gate at Robert Street for the caretaker. The new Market was not a success as the traders moved their business to the Irishtown outside the town walls and out of the reach of Corporation tariffs. During the Famine period of the 1840s it was used as a temporary hospital for poor local victims and during a cholera epidemic. In later years it was used by the Corporation as a store, during which it accommodated a pack of foxhounds for a period. During the 1890s much thought went into deciding on a site for the new parish church and Colonel Tottenham offered the committee the Market premises for the purpose. It has proved over the years to have been an excellent choice of site. **Courtesy of Jim Sutton**



Contribute to the fundraiser for the New Pastoral Development Programme training 30 Lay People in Maynooth for Parish Ministry. Support the Collection Weekend in the Diocese of Ferns on March 16th and 17th. Envelopes will be available at all churches before that weekend and you can also donate online at www.ferns.ie. Your generosity will shape the future of parish life. Together let's empower our community and ensure a vibrant and active parish environment. Make a lasting difference

COLLECTION Bar Code will be located in various places throughout the Church. 16th/17th March 2024

Transfiguration in Children

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
 If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
 If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.
 If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
 If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.
 If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
 If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.
 If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
 If children live with security, they learn to have faith.
 If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
 If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world.



Medjugorje ex Cork Airport May 29th (7 nights). Last few places available. €879.00 pps. Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

Happy Mother's Day
to all the tough, hard-working, patient, loving, and all-around amazing moms out there!

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.