

## 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.**  
The Lord be with you. **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 Micah 5:1 - 4

**A reading from the prophet Micah**

The Lord says this:  
You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps.79:2-3.15-16.18-19**

**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 Hebrews 10:5-10

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:  
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'  
Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

**The word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

## GOSPEL Luke 1:39 - 44

**A reading from the holy Gospel**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

**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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 22nd December 2024

Mary's first journey after the annunciation was to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who needed her help. Christmas brings the question to each of us, "who needs my help?"

## 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.

## 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

**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.**



The story of Mary going to help her cousin, an older lady who was now pregnant, is an ordinary story of the life of Mary. They were both pregnant. They both needed companionship and ordinary love. They needed to share the problems of any expectant mother and also share their joy.

We could say of Mary she did ordinary things extraordinarily well – she wouldn't make the newspapers– just the two women giving a listening ear and the little helps a pregnant mother needs.

There are many little visitations in life – to be present with people when they need us in the family and the neighbourhood.

In doing that like Mary we bring the grace of God and the presence of the Lord...what you do for anyone you do for me...Jesus could think of his mother in saying these words.

In receiving Mary, Elizabeth was visited by Jesus. In the give and take of our lives we bring Jesus to each other.

**Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger**

## Jesus' Story

*Fr. Liam Hickey*



Mary is very good at helping out. She goes to her cousin Elizabeth who is expecting a baby. She notices when people want more wine at a wedding. The angel asked Mary to listen. Mary always listens to our prayers and helps us to listen to each other.





# 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 Homes.



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Priest on Duty  
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Radio Mass 104.7Fm & LIVE STREAM ON PARISH & CHURCH CAM LIVE WEBSITES. All 8.00am Masses are in Mount Carmel Monastery Chapel.



Please call into the Sacristy BEFORE Mass to remind the celebrant of the Intention.			
Date	Time		
Saturday 21st Dec	5.00pm	Nick Cooney, Charleton Hill	Remembrance
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 22nd December - 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Pat Lee, Church Lane	1st Anniversary
	9.00am	Michael & Annie Cleere, sons Paddy & Eddie,daughter Margaret, Newtown Commons	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Benny Rowe, The Maudlins	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Tom O'Brien, Glenbarra, Rosbercon	Months Mind
Monday 23rd Dec	8.00am	Nancy & Jimmy Martin and daughter Patricia Fitzgerald, Ard na Greine	Remembrance
	9.30am	Rosary is recited every morning in the Parish Church from Monday to Saturday, however on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month the Novena to Our Lady of Fatima is held @ 9.15am	
	10.00am	Bridget & Bernard Rowe, The Bullawn	Anniversaries
Tuesday 24th Dec— Christmas Eve	8.00am	Special Intentions	
	5.00pm	Christmas Novena 2	
	7.00pm	Christmas Novena 3	
	9.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Wednesday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord	9.00am	Christmas Novena 4	
	10.00am	Christmas Novena 5	
	12.00 Noon	Christmas Remembrance for all our deceased parishioners, families & friends.	
Thursday 26th Dec - St. Stephen, First Martyr	8.00am	Christmas Novena 6	
	10.00am	Christmas Novena 7	
	6.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Friday 27th Dec - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist	8.00am	Christmas Novena 8	
	10.00am	The Venn Family, Monaghan Family, Howlett Family, Murphy Family, Franklin Family, William Street	Remembrance
Saturday 28th December - The Holy Innocents,	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	Claire O'Reilly, Woodland Grove	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 29th Dec - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8.00am	John & Mary Ann Cullen, Newbawn	Remembrance
	9.00am	Molly & Matt Crowdle, Mountgarret	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Monica O'Grady, Mountgarret	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Gerry Sheehan, Charleton Hill	Months Mind



**Sanctuary Lamp Intentions:**  
Available @ €10.00 / week.  
Commencing Saturday @ 10.00am to the following Saturday.

**Our Lady's (Left):**  
**Billy Cashin RIP**

**Altar (Centre):**  
**Bernard & Lena Furlong, Christmas Remembrance**

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

**Blessed Sacrament Chapel:**  
**The Murphy Family, Priory Street**



**RECENTLY DECEASED:**  
We pray for the souls of -  
Daniel O'Keeffe, Ballyrue, New Ross  
Bridget Hayden (nee Murphy), UK and late of  
Neville St. New Ross  
who has passed away recently.  
May she rest in peace.

**CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE:**  
Margaret Doran (nee Kiely), New Ross & Cork,  
Tommy Connors, Mount Carmel,  
Paddy & Nellie Doran, New Ross,  
Martin & Ally Doran, New Ross,  
Joe & Jo Carroll, Ard Michil & their sons Joe & Des  
& granddaughter Aileen,Milwaukee,  
Stella, Bobby & Nicholas Katus,  
Jim Merrigan, The Bullawn,  
Ned & Maggie & Ned Cash Jnr. Hospital Road &  
Bridget Moroney, New Ross.

**ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:**  
We remember & pray for the souls of—  
Elizabeth & Willie Kelly & their son Christopher,  
Charleton Hill,  
James Maddock, The Bullawn,  
Patrick Martin, Adamstown,  
Molly & Matt Crowdle, Irishtown,  
William St.Ledger, Mount Carmel,  
Dawn Payne & her Dad Richie, Mount Carmel,  
Nellie (Ellen) Jefford, The Bosheen,  
Ann Gardiner, JKL Place,  
Felix & Ann Doran, New Ross,  
Tom Connors Connolly, Clonroche,  
Ned & Mary Mernagh, Rosbercon  
whose anniversaries occurs around this time.  
\*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.



**Tuesday 24th December 2024:** Confessions in Parish Church 2.00 - 4.00pm  
Masses in Parish Church @ 5.00pm, 7.00pm & Polish Mass @ 9.00pm. Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00pm.  
**\*NB: No 10.00am Mass in Parish Church**  
**Wednesday 25th December 2024:** Christmas Day.  
Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00am. Masses in Parish Church @ 9.00am, 10.00am & 12.00 Noon.  
**Thursday 26th December 2024:** Masses as usual.  
Polish Mass @ 6.00pm.  
**Tuesday 31st December 2024:** Please note Adoration will take place from 10.00am to 4.00pm  
**Wednesday 1st January 2025:** New Years Day. Bank Holiday. Masses as usual. Polish Mass @ 7.00pm TBC



*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.*



## BISHOP NASH'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It is lovely, once again, to be able to share a message of greeting and gratitude as we approach the great celebration of Christmas. I hope the year has been kind to you and that you have been supported and encouraged by friends and family when things were difficult and that in turn, you were able to reach out to those who needed help on the journey of life.

As we prepare to celebrate a New Year in 2025, we are celebrating a Jubilee Year as we do each quarter of a Century. Pope Francis has designated 2025 to be a Jubilee of Hope and the invitation from him to each of us is to be “Pilgrims of Hope”

Hope is a word we are familiar with – we hope our team will win this year, we hope that loved ones will get well, that someone we care about will get a job, a house, a longed for new baby.

These hopes are very special to us, they show how much we care about others and how we would like our world to be. But the power to make them happen lies outside us, in the gift of others. Christian Hope on the other hand invites us to look inward to ourselves and see ourselves as the source of Hope for the world, for our community, parish and families.

Christian Hope invites us to look at those who despite difficulties in life remain cheerful and faithful and who bring out the best in people through their courage and generosity of life.

This hope is not a fancy or woolly aspiration, a daydream that brightens a dull day or a feeling that makes us look forward to tomorrow, next week or next year.

Christian Hope is rooted in faith and in love of God, seen at this time of the year in the story of Christmas. It is the fulfilling of the promise that God will always be with us, faithful to us even when we are unfaithful and that he will be found on the margins of life, among the poor just as he was two thousand and twenty-five years ago.

Hans Christian Andersen, the great writer of stories for children, began his stories with the words “Once upon a time” and he finished them with “And they all live happily ever after”. Our life stories are rarely that neat, but Andersen who was also a person of deep faith, did say once about real life that “Every person’s life is a Fairytale written by God’s fingers, and they all lived happily ever after”.

The promise of “living happily ever after” in the presence of God is the source of all our hope.

My wish for you and me and all our families and friends and communities of which we are a part, is that we will discover this Christmas and throughout the year ahead, a great deep well of hope within our hearts and communities and that we will bring it, like a deep drink of cool water to a world that is thirsting for Hope.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I send special greetings to those who will work over Christmas, in hospitals and care homes, in the Garda Siochána and the emergency services and those members of our defence forces who will be keeping the peace in different troubled parts of the world.

May the work of all who bring peace and healing be blessed by the Prince of Peace and the Great Healer.



**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 and Very Rev. Brian Whelan

**Advent Reflection 4 - LOVE (22nd December)**

Over the past 3 Sundays we lit the candle of HOPE, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, The candle of PEACE, remembering God’s dream of a peaceful world; the candle of JOY, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy

This week we dwell on the Theme of LOVE.

**REFLECTION:**  
**Love of God is total & is the reason for the birth of Jesus among us. We are made for love & we yearn for love that is total. The love of God is always in our reach. We know God is compassionate, forgiving, caring & has a special eye for those who are in trouble.**

**We light the Candle of LOVE.**  
*Pondering privately: This week you may wish to reflect on how you love God & how you show your love of neighbour.*

