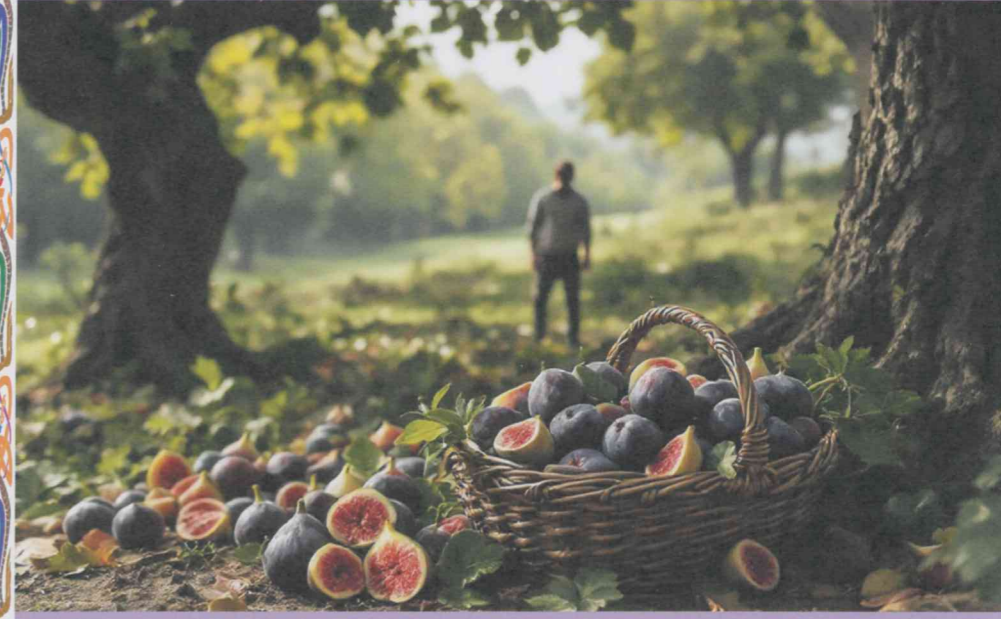


focus on sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 23rd March 2025

The call of God is always to become more like Jesus in how we treat his people. We know our failings: the call to repent in today's gospel is also the promise of God's forgiveness for our failings and sins.



It is an age-old question, 'Why do bad things happen to people?' We hear of two tragedies in the Gospel today; the first is where a number of Galileans were killed by the Romans as they made sacrifices to God in the Temple. Some Jewish leaders at the time viewed the Galileans as second-class Jews and so they are raising more than a question about suffering here. They want to know if the Galileans suffered because they were not really 'Jewish enough'. Jesus responds with a sharp question about a recent tragedy involving those killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. Were these people worse offenders than others in Jerusalem? Is this really how God works in our world?

Jesus then invites the hearer into the parable of the fig tree to focus attention on living a full life, rather than spending time wondering whether others deserve for their lives to be cut short or not. When we hear of tragedies it is often a time to reflect on the big questions, but it is also an invitation to ask ourselves 'how am I doing?' because death can come at any moment. Am I bearing the fruit in my life that I am capable of? The intent is not to beat ourselves over the head with a branch of the fig tree; rather it is to help us live our best lives and make the most of the time that has been given to us. If we are not bearing fruit then we might look more closely at things and see what needs attention: maybe extra pruning or nourishment is needed. The parable concerns the unfruitfulness of the tree but also offers the opportunity for change. Jesus invites us to the fullness of life. Perhaps this Sunday, we might reflect on what areas of our lives need attention. What do we really need in terms of nourishment, rest, company, time in nature? What does fullness of life mean for you?

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." (J.R.R. Tolkien)

An extract from *The Deep End – A Journey Through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke*, Messenger Publications, 2021 (Jane Mellett & Triona Doherty).

Jesus' Story

Liam Hickey

People hurt themselves sometimes, taking wrong food or drink, and forgetting rules of the road. Also we hurt others at times, with our words and actions. God does not want us to hurt. He tells us that even when a tree does not do good in giving fruit, God always gives a second chance, and hundreds of chances to His children.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

GREETING

In the name of the Father
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.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus
Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father, he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out

of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 102:1-4.6-8.11

R. The Lord is compassion and love.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. [R]
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. [R]
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. [R]
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. [R]

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10.1-6. 10-12.

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

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL Luke 13. 1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour.
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.....

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection 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

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfil the whole of your commands. 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.



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.




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
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Ross Parish

Volume 44 No. 12

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	Celebrant	Event
	5.00pm	Johnny Mullett, Mount Carmel	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass, with Adoration & Hymns. All Welcome.	
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 	8.00am	Bea Walsh, Irishtown	Anniversary
	9.00am	Andy Foran, Pondfields	Anniversary
	10.00am	Tommy Jefford, Town Wall	Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Edward (Eddie) Poyntz, Ard Na Greine	Months Mind
Monday 24th March 	9.30am	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	Mary Power & her son Jack, Church Lane	Anniversaries
	8.00am	Mary McGrath, Wexford Town	Recently Deceased
	10.00am	Ned Cash Junior, Hospital Road	Anniversary
	10.00am	Eucharistic Adoration until 8.00pm	
Wednesday 26th March 	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Kitty Foley, Cross Street & deceased family members of the Foley & Brennan families, New Ross & Castlecomer	Anniversaries
Parish Coffee Morning after 10.00am Mass in the Sacristy			
Thursday 27th March 	8.00am	Frank Gunning, Co. Offaly	Recently Deceased
	10.00am	Ted St. Ledger, Bewley Street	2nd Anniversary
	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Friday 28th March	10.00am	Oliver Caulfield, Fruithill, Campile	Birthday Remembrance & Anniversary
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 29th March	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	Carmel Dalton, The Bosheen	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 30th March - Mothers Day - Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee "Social Justice" FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 	8.00am	Deceased people of Bewley Street	Remembrance
	9.00am	Nancy Martin, Ard Na Greine	Remembrance
	10.00am	Lal Sinnott, Maiden Lane	3rd Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Kathleen Shelly (nee Walsh), Mount Carmel & Lincoln, UK Communion Preparation Programme Mass "Reconciliation"	Months Mind

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

Our Lady's (Left):
Bea Walsh - Remembrance

Altar (Centre):
Oliver Caulfield - Remembrance

St. Joseph's (Right):
Owenie Furlong - Remembrance

Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
Johnny Mullett - Remembrance

In Remembrance

RECENTLY DECEASED:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Sr. Ann O'Donoghue, Mount Carmel Convent, New Ross & Firhouse, Dublin, John Culleton, Church Street & Whitechurch, Daisy (Margaret) Doyle (nee Dignam), Knockmullen & M&J Restaurant, South Street & Patrick May, Foxrock, Dublin who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Jack & Fred Kennedy, Southknock, Miceal Kavanagh, Mountgarrett, Sean Finn, Ard Na Greine, Martin & Nancy Mernagh, Harvey Place, Ned Cash & Ned Junior, Hospital Road, Luke & Helen Cummins, Edward Larkin, Mary Street, Tommy Jefford, Town Wall, Lal Sinnott, Maiden Lane, John & Margaret Rigley, Southknock, Colin Barrett, Athlone, Owenie Furlong (3rd Anniversary), Ballyrue, Leila & Pat Laffan, Charleton Hill, Liz & Walter Dunne & the deceased Cosgrave family members, The Maudlins, 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.

Congratulations

BAPTISMS:
Baptisms take place on the First Saturday @ 12.00 Noon & Third Sunday @ 1.00pm each month. A Minimum two weeks notice is required & 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 & Photographic ID for the Guardian. If you are not residing in New Ross Parish, a letter from the Parish you do reside in, is required stating they have no objection to your child being baptised in our parish.

WEDDINGS:
To Book your Wedding please contact the Parish Office. A minimum of six months notice is required for Wedding bookings. Bookings are secured on receipt of Marriage application forms, photographic ID & Church booking fee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 4th April 2025: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm.

Wednesday 9th April 2025: Pilgrims of hope Jubilee 2025 - Sick, people with disabilities, carers & healthcare workers.

Friday 11th April 2025: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm.

Sunday 13th April 2025: 10.00am Mass Live on Southeast Radio. Palm Sunday, Masses as usual.

Monday 14th April 2025: Penitential Service @ 7.00pm in Parish Church.

Tuesday 15th April 2025: Annual Diocesan Chrism Mass in St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy @ 7.00pm.

Thursday 17th April 2025: Holy Thursday. Masses @ 5.00pm in Parish Church & @ 7.00pm in Mount Carmel.

Friday 18th April 2025: Good Friday Ceremonies @ 3.00pm in Mount Carmel & Parish Church. Parish Office Closed. Final evening for Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm

Saturday 19th 2025: Confessions @ 2.00 - 4.00pm in Parish Church. Easter Saturday Masses in Parish Church @ 7.00pm & Mount Carmel @ 8.00pm.

Sunday 20th April 2025: Easter Sunday. Masses as usual.

Monday 21st April 2025: Bank Holiday. Parish Office Closed.

Sunday 27th April 2025: Divine Mercy Sunday. Devotions @ 3.00pm.

Wednesday 30th April 2025: Monthly Parish Coffee Morning in the Sacristy after 10.00am Mass. All Welcome.

Sunday 4th May 2025: First Communion Participants Picture Sunday Mass @ 12.00 Noon.

Monday 5th May 2025: Bank Holiday. Parish Office closed.

CHY's Tax Forms: Thank you to anyone who has already returned their CHY forms to the Parish Office to date. For those who have not, we would be most grateful if you could do so as soon as possible. If you are not eligible for tax please sign the bottom of the letter you received and return.



Collection
€ 545.00
Thank you

History Notes - Part 64
TOM SUTTON OF BALLINABOOLA


My uncle Tom Sutton of the Maudlins was a cattle dealer who also became a publican when he "married into" a pub in Ballinaboola. Suttons of Ballinaboola was a busy landmark on the New Ross/Wexford road and is now known as The Horse and Hound, developed so successfully by the Murphy family. My uncle Tom was a strict and sober landlord – raised voices were never allowed on the premise, either in song or argument. Sunday was a closed day and even travellers could skin their knuckles on the front door without reply. Tom carried a lot of weight and he looked small and pudgy from a distance but on standing beside him you realised that he was over six feet tall. Customers had a "Guess Tom's Weight" competition in the pub with each having a bet. Tom was brought into town and placed on a standard weighing scales and the hand immediately went all the way around to 20 stone. He was then brought down to Hickey's Wool scales in Charles Street and it took 6 half-hundred weights to shift him – he was 24 stone (153 kg) weight.

Courtesy of Jim Sutton

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 in the footsteps of your Son. Amen". To find out more about a vocation to the priesthood in the diocese of Ferns, contact Fr Billy Swan at billyswan68@hotmail.com

SAINT PATRICK - A REFLECTION

You may remember a recent film "12 YEARS A SLAVE". It is based on the memoirs of SOLOMON NORTHUP, WRITTEN IN 1853. He was born a free man in New York, kidnapped in Washington DC in 1841 and spent twelve years as a slave on the plantations of the State of Louisiana. His life after release is clouded in mystery; some hold that he was murdered by his kidnappers; others believe he led a very sad, unsettled life and never again got things back on track. SAINT PATRICK had a similar experience in early life, and he too wrote his memoirs 1400 years earlier. He too was kidnapped at age sixteen and was enslaved for about six years. However, the difference between the two was that Patrick did reconstruct his life after his release. Hence, we celebrate that life and the benefits that have arisen from it for our country and indeed for the world. The real miracle of his life is that this escaped slave should decide to return to that hellish place called Ireland to liberate, what he referred to as 'ignorant barbarians, who worshipped idols'. He must indeed have been a man of extraordinary physical, mental and spiritual strength. That wholeheartedness and singlemindedness must have been based on a very strong faith in God. That faith was surely tested to the limit during his helplessness during those years but also that he placed his trust solidly in God to put things right. And that is where his life touches ours. We are unlikely to experience anything remotely close to his years of slavery. But there are other types of slavery—to work, to wealth, to pleasure, to status, to self-importance, to name but a few. In that type of culture God can be ignored and sidelined and any semblance of spirituality excluded from life. Many of the parades this week were tending in that direction, with pagan tales and characters dominating, with little or no space afforded to any religious dimension. Thankfully our parade was a celebration of all that is healthy and wholesome in the community, showcasing the dozens of volunteers and voluntary groups that give their expertise to developing the talents of young and old and make life more pleasant for all. Along with that there was the acknowledgement of businesses—especially ones established by local people, who provide employment at home. St. Patrick is a towering example of a man who in all the ups and downs of life, kept his connection with God to the forefront of his activities. That same challenge is ours today, so that the direction of our lives follows the one brought to us by our National Patron; the one for which so many of our forebearers suffered to preserve and hand on to us. ARE WE SLIPPING BACK into a pre-Patrick era? For centuries the danger to our Faith came from outside - a foreign, anti-Irish power in control, Penal Laws, oppression of all sorts. The challenges to our faith now are coming from WITHIN our own ranks. For example, history has given credit to St. Patrick for banishing snakes from Ireland - a symbol I think of him replacing pagan values and practices with Christian ones. AN POST this year has created postage stamps for St. Patrick's Day, portraying nothing but SNAKES. Is someone trying to undo his work? In such a changing, confusing and complex situation we need an accurate COMPASS to guide our way. BELIEF IN GOD - properly understood - provides that Compass—to help us see beneath and deal with the changes in our society. No matter how stressful our situation may be, it will never reach the desperate plight of St. Patrick's early and later life. His faith made it possible for God to enter his life and give hope for a better future. Our faith too will make it possible for God to enter our situations and give us a similar hope for a brighter and better future.



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.