

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 Father Amen.
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.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

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,

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Joshua 5: 9-12*

A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 33: 2-7*

R. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **[R]**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **[R]**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called;
the Lord heard him and rescued him
from all his distress. **[R]**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone,

and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

GOSPEL *Luke 15:1-3. 11-32*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the Father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer

deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

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

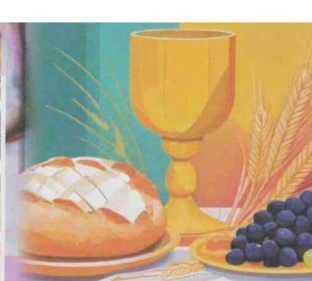
Pray brothers and sisters,

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

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.



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.....

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

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

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.

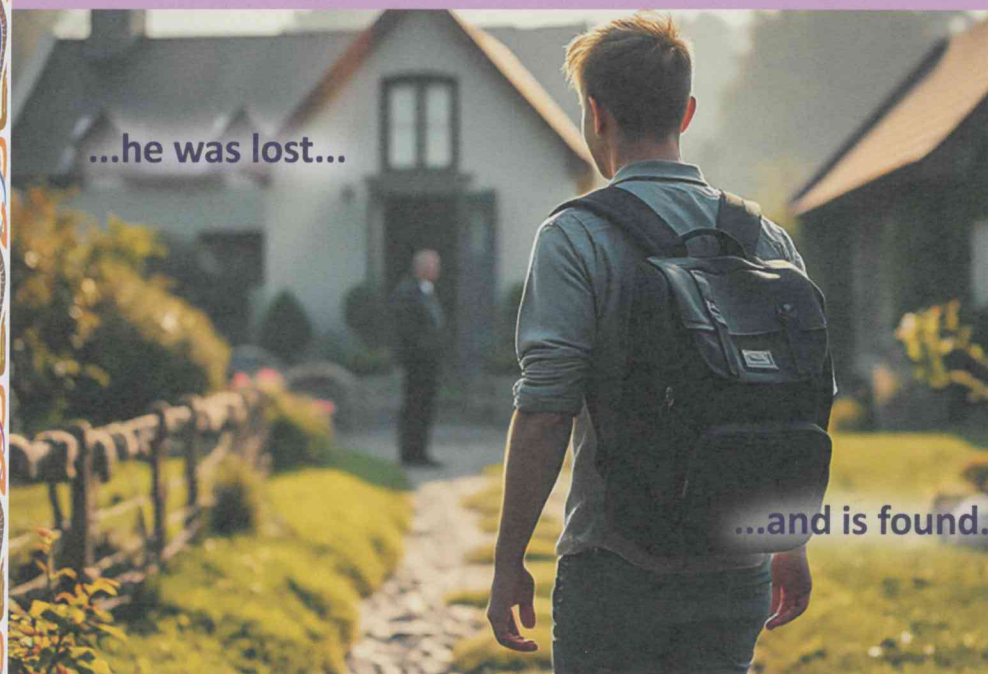
Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Laetare Sunday) 30th March 2025

Today's gospel has been called "the best short story in the world's literature." Allow the story of the prodigal son draw you into God's loving forgiveness.



...he was lost...

...and is found.



God is unfair, so said the elder brother. And he was right. Our God is unfair, because forgiveness is unfair. It is difficult, perhaps, for us today to appreciate the actions of the younger brother. In Jewish society, the bonds that hold the family together were almost sacred. The law prohibiting work or travel on the Sabbath was intended to ensure the family stayed together that day so that the bonds between them were maintained. So the actions of the younger brother in leaving his father to grow old, while he went off to live the good life, was one of the greatest sins that any Jew could commit. Yet, before he could even ask his father for forgiveness, the father welcomed him back and prepared a home-coming feast. I think we can all identify with the elder brother's protest. Why try to live a good life, and do what is right, if those who do wrong are not going to be held accountable? But the father, who represents God, tells his older son that God is not a God who rewards the just and punishes the sinner, but rather a God who rewards the just and forgives the sinner. The Prodigal Son story challenges us to ask ourselves, "Why do I try to live a good life?" Is it for the reward, a place in Heaven, in which case I am merely a mercenary! Or is it out of faithfulness and love of God, without asking for, or expecting, anything in return? Let us rejoice then that our loving God is unfair.

Fr. Peter McVerry

Jesus' Story

Liam Hickey

God's Love Story today was painted by a great artist. The artist shows a young boy, who ran away from home with his father's money, and he lived a wild life in the city. Now the boy is dressed in rags and says to himself ...I'll go back home, maybe my father will accept me. The Father has two big arms waiting to welcome his son home. The Father doesn't notice his rags or tattered shoes, He says "let's have a Party. God is that Father.



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
Facebook/New
Ross Parish

Volume 44 No. 13



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 29th March | 5.00pm | Carmel Dalton, The Bosheen | 1st Anniversary |
| | 7.00pm | Polish Community Mass | |
| Sunday 30th March - Mothers Day - Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee "Social Justice" | 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" | Month's Mind FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT |
| Monday 31st 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 | Josephine Moore, Henry Street | Anniversary |
| Tuesday 1st April | 8.00am | Thomas Merrigan, Knockmullen | 30th Anniversary |
| | 10.00am | Ann Rossiter, Church Lane | Anniversary |
| | 10.00am | Eucharistic Adoration until 8.00pm | |
| Wednesday 2nd April | 8.00am | Intentions of the People of the Parish | |
| | 10.00am | Margaret Mulhall, Killealy | Anniversary |
| Thursday 3rd April | 8.00am | Kitty Ryan, Coolyhune, Graiguenamanagh | Anniversary |
| | 10.00am | Michael & Patrick Cashin, JKL Place | Anniversaries |
| | 3.00pm | Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel | |
| Friday 4th April | 10.00am | Helen O'Reilly (nee Murphy), Windsor, UK & Ballyanne *Bishop Ger celebrates Mass with Primary School Pupils | Anniversary |
| | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross | |
| Saturday 5th April | 10.00am | Parish Mass Association | |
| | 5.00pm | Margaret & William Rochford, Old Charlton Hill | Anniversaries |
| | 7.00pm | Polish Community Mass | |
| Sunday 6th April | 8.00am | Kathleen T Kennedy, "Lisheen", Southknock | Anniversary |
| | 9.00am | Jimmy Martin, Ard Na Greine | 10th Anniversary |
| | 10.00am | Joseph Caulfield, Southknock & Pat Dunne Junior, Terrerath | 7th & 19th Anniversaries |
| | 12.00 Noon | Garry O'Farrell, Cluain Fada | Months Mind |



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions:
Available @ €10.00 / week. Commencing Saturday @ 10.00am to the following Saturday.
Our Lady's (Left): Remembrance
Altar (Centre): John & Ellen Finn & Family - Remembrance
St. Joseph's (Right): Special Intentions
Blessed Sacrament Chapel: Remembrance



RECENTLY DECEASED:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Mary Power (nee Caufield), Harvey Place & Waterford City, Ray Shannon, Listerlin, Kilkenny & Arthurstown & Tommy Dwyer, Mount Carmel
May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Mary Ann Kavanagh, Irishtown, Teresa Tyner, Riverview & Doneraile, Cork, Enda Somers, The Maudlins, Jack & Fred Kennedy, Southknock, Shay Kehoe, Nunnery Lane, Margaret Martin, Chambersland Close, Annabell Kehoe, Tower Grove & Josephine Moore, Henry Street, 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.



BAPTISMS:
We welcome into our Christian Community: Celem Caulfield, Neville Street & Kai Murphy, Priory Court, who were Baptised recently in our Parish Church. 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:
We congratulate: Ann Cash, Longmeadow & Mick Connors, Bunclody, who were recently married in our Parish Church. 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.

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



Tuesday 1st April 2025: We will be taking Mass bookings up to & including September 2025.
Friday 4th April 2025: Bishop Ger celebrates 10.00am Mass with Primary School Pupils. Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm.
Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th April 2025: First Confessions will take place for participants in the school.
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 April 2025: Confessions @ 2.00 - 4.00pm in Parish Church. Easter Saturday Masses in Parish Church @ 7.00pm & Mount Carmel @ 8.00pm.

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.

Jubilee of Social Justice - Fourth Sunday of Lent 30th of March: This Sunday the 30th of March in the Diocese of Ferns we will celebrate the Jubilee of Social Justice at the 10am mass in St. Aidan's Cathedral. At this mass we will celebrate the work of Trocaire who works with local partners in the world's most at-risk communities and with people in Ireland to tackle the underlying causes of poverty and injustice and respond to the crises they create. Trocaire's primary focus is to engage with those who are most impacted by poverty and inequality. We also mobilise and inspire people in Ireland, north and south, to take action on issues of global justice. All are welcome to attend.

Come and join other young people for faith, food and fun. **The Youth 2000 Prayer Group** meets on the last Tuesday of each month in the Bunclody Pastoral at 6.30pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th March 2025. Anyone between the age of 16 and 35 years are welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Pastoral Centre.

History Notes - Part 65
A FATAL SHOOTING NEAR CAMBLIN
A recent conversation with a friend reminded me of a story which my mother told of an unfortunate incident which took place when the Civil War was at its height in 1922. Two sisters named Malone were shopkeepers in South Street. They had been walking for leisure on the Camblin road on a summer's evening and were sitting on the roadside wall near where the Nolan Transport container storage areas are now located. At that time the landscape was wide open with no buildings in the area. There was a clear view across the marshes to the river and over to the Kilkenny side. Suddenly one sister fell forward having been shot in the back and died at the scene. There was a hug furore in town over the shooting. One theory was that the victim was wearing a green coat and had been mistaken for a combatant by the enemy and that the firing had come from across the river. Investigations by the police were probably limited in those times of strife and the culprit was never identified. The mystery remains unsolved.
Courtesy of Jim Sutton

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.



Mother's Day Prayer

*I said a Mother's day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.*

*I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.*

*So I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
and I bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be!*

A Liturgy for the Jubilee of the Sick, people with disabilities, carers and healthcare workers will take place on Wednesday 9th April at 3pm in Clonard Church. The liturgy will include the Sacrament of Anointing. All are welcome to attend.

PARISH INFORMATION

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. NO Masses in Mount Carmel on Monday, Friday & Saturday.

Mass Bookings: On Tuesday 1st of April we will be taking Mass bookings up to and including September 2025.

Next Weeks Readings: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Is 43: 16-21. Ps 125, R/ v3. PHIL 3: 8-14. Jn 8: 1-11.

Weekly Collection and Supporting the Parish: Collections 23rd March 2025 @ € 1,753.19 (165 No. Envelopes & 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.

Parish Office can now take card payments over the telephone.

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.

St. Michael's Pastoral Centre: Available for Parish based activities, please contact the Parish office.

Radio Maria Ireland: Radio Maria Ireland is an Irish run Catholic Talk Radio Station. Prayer, Catechesis, uplifting music, Talks, interviews & 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. One way system in operation.

Holy Water Fonts: Holy Water Fonts at the Church Entrances are **NOT** Rubbish Bins. Please respect them.