

focus on sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday) 27th April 2025

Jesus knows the sinfulness and doubt of his friends and gives to them after the resurrection his own forgiveness and certainty of his presence.



Reading the news can be upsetting these days. It often seems there is nothing but bad news. People are suffering across the world due to unjust economic systems and environmental degradation. Increasing numbers are homeless or living in poverty. Hateful rhetoric is becoming more widespread. We sometimes lose hope and go through shaky patches. We find ourselves asking: where is God in all this?

In today's Gospel we meet Thomas. As a disciples of Jesus, he has been through the mill. His friend has been brutally killed, the terrible suffering still fresh in his mind. The disciples' own lives are in danger, so they are lying low. Traumatized and grieving, he is not ready to hear the comforting words of his friends who say they have seen Jesus. Thomas' momentary 'wobble' earned him the nickname 'Doubting Thomas'. It certainly makes him easy to relate to. When he does finally encounter Jesus, an agonising week later, we can sense his relief when he exclaims "My Lord and my God!" The man labelled 'doubter' gives us one of the great expressions of faith.

We know life can be painful and messy, even unbearable at times. It is hard to hang onto our faith when we are grieving or anxious. Like Thomas, our trust can be shaken; like the disciples huddled in the room, we are afraid of what the future will bring. It can be difficult to accept assurances that God is with us. We might struggle to pray, become closed and isolate ourselves. Thomas is a saint for those times of darkness. In their despair, Jesus came among the disciples, calming their troubled hearts with his words "Peace be with you". In our darkest days, may we encounter the healing presence of the risen Christ.

"Life will always prevail, through all the layers of death in which we try to contain it." (Margaret Silf)

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

Jesus said to Thomas "Here are my hands. God's hand made the world and we are his special work of art. The Spirit of God in our hands makes a wonderful world, with all kinds of inventions. Our hands give hugs, play music, play games. We hold hands, clap hands, shake hands. We praise God, when we care and share with our hands.

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, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

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.

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

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. 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, alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

GREETING

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us.....

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented

by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4.22-27

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. or Alleluia!

- Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' [R]
- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. [R]
- O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord, grant success. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. [R]

SECOND READING Apocalypse 1:9-13. 17-19.

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands

and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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,

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, Ballybogan 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 Homes.



Parish Office
051 421 348
Priest on Duty
051 421214 (24 Hr)



Parish Mobile
087 1212 707
(Text Alert Only)



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newrossparish.ie



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newrossparish.ie



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Ross Parish

Volume 44 No. 17

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	Intention	Notes
Saturday 26th April	5.00pm	Jim Dalton, Chapel Lane, his parents; Bridget & Michael & his brothers; Michael & John	1st Anniversary & Remembrance
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 27th April - Divine Mercy Sunday	8.00am	Mary & Michael Meaney, Nunnery Lane	Anniversaries
	9.00am	Kathleen Delaney, Bawnmore	Anniversary
	10.00am	John Gannon, Nunnery Lane	Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Mary Power (nee Caulfield) , Harvey Place & Waterford City	Months Mind
Monday 28th April	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	Alan Murphy, The Bosheen, Kathleen Fleming, Irishtown & Kevin Manley, Abbeyview	Anniversaries
Tuesday 29th April	8.00am	Michael Foley, Irishtown	Anniversary
	10.00am	Catherine, Martin, Mai, Michael, Marty & Jim Culleton, Cross Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Eucharistic Adoration until 8.00pm	
Wednesday 30th April	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Marian O'Rourke, William Street	2nd Anniversary
Parish Coffee Morning in the Sacristy after 10.00am Mass. All Welcome.			
Thursday 1st May	8.00am	Josie, Billy, Gerard, Mary & Berna Long, St. Mullins	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Tom Murphy, Upper William Street	Anniversary
	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Friday 2nd May	10.00am	Margaret Malone, Lower Michael Street	4th Anniversary
Saturday 3rd May	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	John Dreelan, Mountross	Anniversary
Sunday 4th May - Third Sunday of Easter	8.00am	Kathleen & Maurice Doyle, Southknock	Anniversaries
	9.00am	Richard (Dixie) & Biddy Brazil, Abbey View	15th Anniversaries
	10.00am	Arron Phillpot, Cluain Fada	6th Anniversary
	12.00 Noon		

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

Our Lady's (Left):
Dick Cody, Glenmore - Anniversary

Altar (Centre):
Trevor Byrne, William Street - Remembrance

St. Joseph's (Right):
Jack Ryan, Charleton Hill - Anniversary

Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
-

In Remembrance

RECENTLY DECEASED:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church & sovereign of the Vatican City, John Aspell, Fr. Cullen Terrace, Tom Dunne, Greystones, Wicklow, Montenotte, Cork & New Ross & William (Willie) Roche, Rosbercon, May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - James Caulfield, Charleton Hill, Kieran O'Reilly, Mount Carmel, Bridie & Maurice Clarke, UK & Chapel Lane, Bridget Howlett (36th Anniversary), Raheen, Adamstown & deceased family members of the Howlett family, John Byrne & Liam Coffey, London UK, Deceased members of the North Family, Abbey View & Richie Murphy (1st Anniversary), Knockroe, 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.
* Maximum of eight entries per week.

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.

BLOOD DONATION CLINIC

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**BRANDON HOUSE HOTEL
NEW ROSS**

Mon 28th, Tues 29th, Wed 30th April
& Thurs 1st May '25
From 15.50pm – 20.00pm

New Ross Active Retirement will hold their monthly meeting on Friday the 2nd of May at 11.00am in the St. Mary's Youth Centre, Nunnery Lane. All Welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 27th April 2025: Divine Mercy Sunday. Masses as usual. Devotions @ 3.00pm - 4.00pm.

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.

Friday 9th May 2025: Bishop Ger visits CBS School.

Monday 19th May 2025: CBS Awards Ceremony @ 1.00pm in Parish Church.

Tuesday 20th May 2025: Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Tuesday to Sunday the 25th of May.

Thursday 22nd May 2025: CBS Graduation Mass @ 5.00pm in the Parish Church followed with refreshments in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre afterwards.

Saturday 24th May 2025: Parish First Communion Celebration @ 11.00am.

Sunday 25th May 2025: 10.00am Mass live on Southeast Radio.

Wednesday 28th May 2025: Monthly Parish Coffee Morning in the Sacristy after 10.00am Mass. All Welcome.



POPE FRANCIS 1936-2025

ELECTION OF A POPE
When the Cardinals decide who is to be Pope, the person elected is asked two questions: - Do you accept? What name do you choose? On the 13th of March 2013 JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO answered YES to the first question but hesitated before answering the second; obviously he hadn't given any thought to a name. However, the Cardinal beside him prompted him by saying "REMEMBER THE POOR". Bergoglio immediately thought of the Saint of the poor- St. Francis- and decided he would be called Pope Francis.

History Notes - Part 70
DYING MEMORIES OF THE '98 PERIOD
The history of the struggle between the United Irishmen and the Crown forces in the terrible summer of 1798 is well chronicled. Histories written in the nineteenth century are not always reliable and tend to be biased to suit the author's viewpoint or agenda. The most highly regarded study of the origins and outbreak of the Rebellion was made by of our own Professor Louis Cullen. His deep and detailed study is regarded as a welcome re-writing of the outbreak of '98 in Wexford. Local lore of events in and about New Ross are all but forgotten, but there is still an odd echo about. Jack Shannon had a story from his grandmother who knew a lady who was a child in Irishtown and was hidden in a shore by her parents on 5th June 1798 until the battle ended. A more poignant story was told by Jack Byrne of The Hollow in Camblin. His ancestor, also a Jack Byrne, was a United Irishman, was heading up the hill away from home to join his colleagues on Corbett Hill (Talbot Hall) when his sister who was at the gate watching him go, called him back. He was wearing knee-length socks and the sister noticed a hole in the heel of one sock. The repair to the sock completed and he was on his way again. As the family watched, Jack headed up the hill with his pike on his shoulder: he never returned.

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.

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 Thursday 1st of May we will be taking Mass Bookings up and including October 2025.

Next Weeks Readings: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Acts 5:27-32,40-41. Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13, R/ v 2. APOC 5:11-14. Jn 21:1-19

Weekly Collection and Supporting the Parish: Collections Easter Sunday 20th April 2025 @ € 2,278.19 (186 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.

Resurrection: Jesus said " I am with you **ALWAYS**". He means what he says ! He is with us always because of the Resurrection. He is therefore **not** confined by time or space, He is everywhere. Resurrection is for everyday. What a difference that would make if we lived in that reality. A song in the musical 'The Student Prince' says exactly what Easter & Resurrection means in our everyday lives. As a result of Easter Day and the Resurrection the following follows: 'I'll walk with God from this day on, His helping hand I'll lean upon, I'll walk with God, I'll take his hand, I'll talk with God He'll understand, I'll never walk alone, While I walk with God'.

NEW ROSS DRAMA WORKSHOP
PROUDLY PRESENT
A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
By Arthur Miller

**ST. MICHAEL'S THEATRE,
NEW ROSS**

WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL THURSDAY 1st MAY FRIDAY 2nd MAY

AT 7:30PM NIGHTLY ADMISSION €15
BOOKING: 051-421255 OR THEATRE WEBSITE
Directed by Margaret Rossiter
By kind permission of Josef Weinberger Ltd and Drama League of Ireland

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.