

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.**
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
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 *Isaiah 7: 10 - 14***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:
'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 23: 1 - 6*

R. Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **[R]**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **[R]**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **[R]**

SECOND READING *Romans 1: 1-7***A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 1: 18 - 24***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,

because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.
When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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 21st December 2025

The birth of Christ is almost upon us now. We are reminded in Isaiah's prophecy of the long-awaited Emmanuel – God in our midst. Like Joseph, we need to make room for Jesus to enter our lives and our world.



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.

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.
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.



Christmas is practically here and there is still so much to be done. That Christmas celebrates the most central tenet of our faith, God becoming a human being, calls us to pray, reflect and do something practical. The great doctors of the church tell us that the whole of creation waited with bated breath to see

if Mary would agree to become the mother of the Saviour. Christmas celebrates God's gift to us of everything he has, his only Son, his whole family so to speak. Christmas celebrates Mary's generosity when she agreed to be the mother of the Saviour. In doing so she put in jeopardy her personal plans and ran the gauntlet of possible rejection by Joseph and being the butt of harsh and unforgiving village gossip. The season that's coming upon us is dripping with the spirit of generosity, God's generosity as well as Mary's and Joseph's.

It's the season for us all to be generous to all. It's the season to be compassionate to those who are less fortunate, forgotten and in need of meaningful help. It's the season to reach out and help a neighbour carry their load. If we ourselves have more than enough to enjoy Christmas, it won't hurt to be generous and give some of it away to those who have less or nothing at all to cheer them up. Christmas is not just about me. It's about us all together, rich, and poor, givers and receivers – all helping one another to carry the burden of our life together. So, let's slow down these days and try sensing and feeling the pain of others. God so loved and felt for the world that he sent his only Son... John 3:15.

Fr. Joe Walsh

Jesus' Story


Fr. Liam Hickey

Mary, The Mother of Jesus always prays for us. Her body is with God in Heaven. She is very close to each one of us. Now Mary knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, and help us with her motherly kindness. We can be especially close to Mary at Christmas and when we visit the crib recite the Hail Mary slowly and thoughtfully.



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, Cooneys, Ryans & Doyles Funeral Homes.



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051 421214 (24 Hr)



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newrossparish.ie



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Radio Mass 104.7FM & LIVE STREAM ON PARISH & CHURCH CAM LIVE WEBSITES.
All 8.00am Masses & Eucharistic Prayer Services are in Mount Carmel Monastery Chapel.



Please call into the Sacristy BEFORE Mass to remind the celebrant of the Intention.

Date	Time		
Saturday 20th December	5.00pm	Rose St. Ledger, Mount Carmel	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 21st December	8.00am	Jeramiah O'Rourke, Ballyrue	Anniversary
	9.00am	Nancy & Jimmy Martin, Ard Na Greine & Patricia Fitzgerald, Nunnery Lane	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Michael & Annie Cleere, their son; Patrick & deceased family members, The Maudlins	Anniversaries
	12.00 Noon	Niall Maddock, Carlow Town & Mountross	Months Mind
Monday 22nd December	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	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	Nick Cooney, Charleton Hill	Remembrance
	7.00pm	Reconciliation Service	
Tuesday 23rd December	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Novena 3	
	10.00am	Eucharistic Adoration until 8.00pm	
Wednesday 24th December	1.00pm	Confessions until 4.00pm	
	5.00pm - Parish	Daniel O'Keeffe, Ballyrue	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm - Parish	Molly & Matty Crowdle, Irishtown	Anniversaries
	8.00pm - Mount Carmel	Novena 4	
	9.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Thursday 25th December	8.00am	Novena 5	
	9.00am	Novena 6	
	10.00am	Novena 7	
	12.00 Noon	Novena 8	
Friday 26th December	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Nicky, Willie & Anne Murphy, Priory Street	Remembrance
	6.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Saturday 27th December	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	Olive Hickey (nee O'Connor), Castlehaven, Mountgarret Road	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 28th December	8.00am	Novena 9	
	9.00am	Jack Richardson, Pondfields & his son; Danny, South Africa	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Phil & Helen O'Kennedy & their parents, Marymount	Anniversaries
	12.00 Noon	Bridget Rowe (nee Bolger), Mary Street Ethna Hennessy (nee Briody), Creywell	Months Mind Months Mind



Fourth Sunday of
Advent



ADVENT
RECONCILIATION
SERVICE



Christmas
Eve



CHRISTMAS
DAY





Eucharistic
Ministers

DECEMBER 2025
MINISTERS OF THE
WORD:
5.00pm - Gordon Doyle
9.00am - Helen Doyle
10.00am -
Lizzie Connors
12.00 Noon -
Pat Wickham
MINISTERS OF THE
EUCARIST:
5.00pm - Mary Rowe,
Eddie Rowe &
Marian Dalton
9.00am - Wendy Cullen
& Sr. Eucharía
10.00am - Liam &
Patsy Nolan &
Margaret Campion
12.00 Noon -
Jagienka Borecka &
Pat Rossiter
Please contact your
co-ordinator should you
not be able to attend.


UPCOMING
EVENTS

Sunday 21st December 2025: Fourth
Sunday of Advent we light the candle of
LOVE. Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00am.
Mass in Parish Church @ 9.00am, 10.00am
& 12.00 Noon.
Monday 22nd December 2025:
Reconciliation Service @ 7.00pm
Tuesday 23rd December 2025: Adoration
after 10.00am Mass until 8.00pm. Parish
Office closing @ 12.00 Noon & will re-open
on Wednesday 7th January 2026 @
10.30am.
Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th
December 2025: Advent Liturgy we light
the candle of LIGHT. Confessions between
1.00pm - 4.00pm. Vigil Masses @ 5.00pm
& 7.00pm in Parish Church & 8.00pm in
Mount Carmel. Polish Mass in Parish
Church @ 9.00pm.
Christmas Day Thursday 25th December
2025: Mass in Mount Carmel @ 8.00am.
Mass in Parish Church @ 9.00am, 10.00am
& 12.00 Noon. No Vocations Holy Hour @
3.00pm.
Friday 26th December 2025: Mass in
Parish Church @ 10.00am. Polish Mass @
6.00pm.

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, Fr. Odhran Furlong, Martha, Breda,
John & Wendy.

Advent 4 - LOVE (21st December)
On the first Sunday of Advent with lit the candle
of Hope remembering the hope which comes in
Christ. On the Second Sunday of Advent we lit
the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream
of a peaceful world. On the Third Sunday of
Advent we lit the candle for JOY, remembering
we wait for the coming of the joy of ages.
Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the
candle of LOVE.
Scripture tells us " There is no fear in love, for
perfect love casts out fear". (1 John 4:18). God
created this world in love and this world will end
in the love of God. God's love pervades all
aspects of life from birth to death.
We light his candle in Love. (Light Candle)
On this day, we remember God is love.





Christmas Eve - LIGHT (24th December)
Throughout this season we have lived, waited
and remembered the hope, peace, joy and love
of God found in Christ. Tonight we gather
together and light candles in honour of the Christ
Child.
With the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn
near. The God who ordered the chaos of the
universe has come down into the chaos of our
world. The Word which was with God at the
beginning came down and lived with us. While
we were yet living in the valley of the shadow of
death, the light of new life burst forth.
We light this candle for Christ. (Light Candle)
On this night, we remember our God has come
in the Christ Child.

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions:

Candles are a wonderful part of our Catholic tradition. We light them at all
prayers in our Church. Candles aid the focus of our prayer. Have you been
asked by a family member of friend to "Light a candle for me" as comfort &
assurance of Prayer?
Available @ €10.00 / week. Commencing Saturday @ 10.00am to the following
Saturday.
Our Lady's (Left):
Margaret & Paddy Finn - Remembrance
Altar (Centre):
Ownie & Sean Furlong, Ballyrue - Remembrance
St. Joseph's (Right):
Joan, Nicholas & Billy Cashin, William Street - Remembrance
Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
Bernard & Lena Furlong, Mountgarrett - Remembrance



In Remembrance


RECENTLY DECEASED:
We remember & pray for the souls of -
Paddy Foley, Mount Carmel,
Marian Rogers (nee Hendrick) Rosbercon & Cork,
James (Jimmy) Malone, Ballincoola & St.Mullins,
Pat McNamara, Rosbercon & Killiney, Dublin
who have passed away recently.
May they rest in peace.
ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of -
Jeramiah O'Rourke, Ballyrue,
Elizabeth (Betty) Kelly, Charleton Hill,
William Kelly & his son; Christopher, Charleton Hill,
Benny Rowe, The Mauldins,
James Maddock, The Bullawn,
Maura & Gerard Flynn, Tramore & New Ross,
Kieran & Monica O'Grady, Mountgarrett,
Stella, Robert & Nick Katus, Lower Michael Street,
Patrick Lee & deceased family members, Church Street,
Ned, Ned Junior & Maggie Cash, Hospital Road,
Bridget Moroney, Lacken Valley,
Teresa Ryan, Rochestown, &
Jerry Berry, Mountgarrett
whose anniversaries occur 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.

It has been brought to our attention by
the Fire Marshal that parking in
undesignated areas within the Church
Grounds is not acceptable, as this may
cause a dangerous situation should an
emergency occur. Thank you.



Heavenly Father,
May our Christmas season be
A time of reconciliation and
peace.
May the love of Christ be with us.
May His peace surround us.
May our Christmas be a time of
healing, giving and sharing.
May Your spirit be with us.
As we share and care in Jesus'
blessed birth.
Amen.

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
please contact: Fr. Roger O'Neill - Vocations Director, Email:
vocations@ferns.ie





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.

