

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the
Infant lying in a manger.**

GREETING

In the name of the Father**Amen.**
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
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.**

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

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and
in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy
of your house, delight one day in eternal
rewards.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
The Lord honours the father in his
children, and upholds the rights of a
mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning
for his sins, he who honours his mother

is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be
happy with children of his own, he shall
be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his
father, he who sets his mother at ease is
showing obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old
age, do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him
sympathy, do not despise him in your
health and strength; for kindness to a
father shall not be forgotten but will serve
as reparation for your sins.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 127: 1 - 5

**R. O blessed are those who fear the
Lord and walk in his ways!**

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall
eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **[R]**
- Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **[R]**
- Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! **[R]**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17 (Alternative shorter form)
**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the
Colossians**

You are God's chosen race, his saints;
he loves you and you should be clothed
in sincere compassion, in kindness and
humility, gentleness and patience. Bear
with one another; forgive each other as
soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has
forgiven you; now you must do the same.
Over all these clothes, to keep them
together and complete them, put on
love. And may the peace of Christ reign
in your hearts, because it is for this that
you were called together as parts of one
body. Always be thankful.
Let the message of Christ, in all its
richness, find a home with you. Teach
each other, and advise each other, in all
wisdom.
With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms
and hymns and inspired songs to God;
and never say or do anything except
in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through him.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ
reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ
find a home with you.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL **Matthew 2: 13-15.19-23**

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew.**

After the wise men had left, the angel of
the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream
and said, 'Get up, take the child and his
mother with you, and escape into Egypt,
and stay there until I tell you, because
Herod intends to search for the child and
do away with him.' So Joseph got up
and, taking the child and his mother with
him, left that night for Egypt, where he
stayed until Herod was dead. This was to
fulfil what the Lord had spoken through
the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord
appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
and said, 'Get up, take the child and his
mother with you and go back to the land
of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the
child are dead.' So Joseph got up and,
taking the child and his mother with him,
went back to the land of Israel. But when
he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded
his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he
was afraid to go there, and being warned
in a dream he left for the region of
Galilee. There he settled in a town called
Nazareth. In this way the words spoken
through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

**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.



focus on sunday

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 28th December 2025

**A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for them; to
pray for healing of divisions and bitterness. We pray that we may grow in
respect and love for our extended family throughout the world.**



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 offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of
conciliation, humbly asking that, through
the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God
and Saint Joseph, you may establish our
families firmly in your grace and your peace.
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.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

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

**Our God has appeared on the earth,
and lived among us.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this
heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example
of the Holy Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
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.**



Family gathering – the elders – all talking about their children
and grandchildren. Lot of joy, laughter, love. Joy on a
grandad's face as he showed a few pictures on the phone of his
grandchild. The centre of life is family – what we talk about so
often. It's where we learn most about life. Looking over a family

album generally brings out a lot of laughter. Family even with its ups and downs,
brings a lot of our joy.

Think for a while sometime today of the joys of family. Recall them, and enjoy
them. It's the place where we find unconditional love. We may drive each other
mad at times, or let each other down. But love is strong for the person just as you
are. In that way family is a sacrament, a sign, of God, accepting us, forgiving us,
moving us on to greater love and maturity and always faithful.

Family today is varied. Stresses are different as before. We live in a world which
needs the values of family life but finds difficulty. Financial worries, worries about
children and the life they will have, are many, and about the elders in the family.
Family joy is in receiving and giving love, also with family friends friends and
extended family.

So family also lets us be and lets us go. We miss our family who are away but
realise that is what they chose to do, or more often, had to do. We find roots in
the family – where we came from, and wings to start on our own way in life, with
a new family.

So every family is a 'holy family'! Not just a saint and an immaculate mother. But
holy in trying to love each other as best we can. As a woman said to her family
as she was approaching the end: 'I did my best to love you all'. A great legacy to
leave behind!

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

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. They are called The Holy Family. Joseph
protected the family from danger. Mary was always caring. Jesus had respect for his
parents. Once, as a teenager, Jesus got lost, and his parents were very worried. Jesus
said to them "Didn't you know where I was?" There are always misunderstandings in
family life. We ask Jesus, Mary and Joseph to help us, to be caring and respectful to
each other in our home.



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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Priest on Duty
051 421214 (24 Hr)



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Volume 44 No. 52

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 27th December	5.00pm	Olive Hickey (nee O'Connor), Castlehaven, Mountgarrett 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
Monday 29th 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	Benny Rowe, The Maudlins	Anniversary
Tuesday 30th December	8.00am	Ned & Mona Walsh & their daughter; Pauline, William Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	The Ryan & Holden families, Abbey Hall	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Eucharistic Adoration until 8.00pm	
Wednesday 31st January	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	John O'Connor, Cluain Fada	1st Anniversary
	NO Monthly Parish Coffee morning in the Sacristy after 10.00am Mass		
Thursday 1st January 2026	8.00am	Special Intention	Special Intention
	10.00am	Anna & Val Reynolds, Kilkenny & Mai Fennelly, Callan	Remembrance
	3.00pm	NO Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
	6.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Friday 2nd January 2026	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Joseph & Mary Kielthy, Mary Street	Anniversaries
Saturday 3rd January 2026	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	Andy Cullen, Abbeyview House	14th Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 4th January 2026	8.00am	Special Intentions	Special Intentions
	9.00am	Tom & Kathleen Caulfield, Wexford Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Nichols Cashin, William Street	Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Michael & Anna Sheehan, Cross Street & their daughter; Margaret	Anniversaries



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):
Anthony Rochford, Clonea, Waterford - Remembrance
Altar (Centre):
Nicholas Cashin, William Street - Anniversary
St. Joseph's (Right):
John, Margaret & Lily Dunphy, Irishtown - Remembrance
Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
The Murphy Family, Priory Street - Remembrance.



ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Declan O'Reilly, Arnestown, Michael Martin (7th Anniversary), Arnestown, Martin O'Neill, Cross Street, Dawn & Richard Pyne, Mount Carmel, James & Elizabeth Campbell, Summerhill, Wexford Town, Josephine Connolly, Pondfields, Tom Connors, Clonleigh, Ita Meaney, Ballyanne & Clare O'Reilly (2nd Anniversary), Woodlawn Grove, 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.
Due to the large amount of requests for anniversary prayers over the Christmas period, please note the bookings have now closed & will re-open on Wednesday the 7th of January 2026 where will be happy to accommodate entries for the New Year. Apologies for any inconvenience caused & thank for your understanding.



BAPTISMS:
We welcome into our Christian Community:
Ruby O'Neill, Willow Park, Kahandawalage Ruheli Nevanna, Dowsleys Barn & Callum Cox, Enniscorthy, who were baptised recently in our Parish Church.

History Notes - Part 102:

NEW ROSS AS CATHEDRAL TOWN



Bishop Patrick Barrett was consecrated Bishop of Ferns in Rome in 1400. A product of the highly influential Priory of the Regular Conons at Kells, Barrett was of the ruling class of Anglo Normans. Senior clerics were well educated and held important posts in government administration and many of them sat in Parliament. The relationship between the descendants of the Norman French invaders and the native Irish of north Wexford had cooled considerably and Art McMurrough had regained absolute control of the old Kavanagh territory. The ancient cathedral of the diocese was at Ferns but Barrett was not welcome amongst the Irish and was unfamiliar with local complicated relationships. In 1403 he negotiated a settlement whereby we received royal permission to move his seat as Bishop of Ferns to New Ross and the town was permitted to trade with its Irish enemies. He also negotiated a small amount of annual "potection money" to be paid to Art McMurrough which revitalised the town's trade and threw down barriers between himself and his Irish enemies. In 1409 he commenced the building of the episcopal residence of Mount Garrett, the ruins of which are still standing, and he re-built Earl Roger's "Mill in the Wood" on the Maudlins stream. Traces of the fine masonary of the of Barrett's Bishops Gate at the bottom of Irishtown can still be seen, and he also re-modelled the south trascept (nearest Mary Street) of his cathedral of St. Mary's. He handed the episcopal seal to Bishop Whitty from Ballyteigue in 1415. Whitty had no enthusiasm for shifting the ecclesiastical capital of Ferns eastward to New Ross and did not share his predecessor's flair for building and innovation. Bishop Barrett died in 1415 after reigning for 15 years.

History Notes - Part 103:

THE BARROW SALMON FISHERY

The Barrow was for centuries a famous salmon fishery. Writing in 1596, the English poet Sir Edmund Spencer referred to the river as "the Goodly Barrow" with "hordes of salmon in its bosom". Unfortunately the fishery is long closed as conservation efforts concentrate on preservation of dwindling wild salmon stocks which pass to their upstream spawning beds. Of course farmed salmon is now freely available in fish shops and supermarkets. Salmon fishing was an important local industry right into the 1960s when fishing families supplemented their income from the river. These families fished the tides in pairs of small flatbottomed cots with a paddler and a netman manning each cot, and a net strung between the little craft. The nets were known as snap nets as at the first feel of a fish the net was snapped closed and pulled in by the netmen. I recall looking down-river from the top of Camblin Hill and counting fourteen pairs of fishing crews at work in the short stretch of river between the Pink Rock bend and Stokestown corner where a shipping operation now stands. The big exporter of local salmon was Johnny Muphys of Bridge Quay, where Mikie Green boxed the catch for its overnight journey by sea and rail to the Billingsgate Fish Market in London. Salmon were often seen jumping in the river to rid themselves of sea lice, and occasionally a jumping fish ended up on the quay. The Boat Club moored their pleasure boats upstream and a passing salmon crew sometimes rubbed salmon scales in the seat of a moored boat as a prank. The Club caretaker, believing that the scales were from a jumping salmon, was annoyed that he had somehow missed a catch.

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.





JANUARY 2025
MINISTERS OF THE WORD:
5.00pm - Padraig Ryan 9.00am - Anne Rochford
10.00am - Mary Martin Carroll
12.00 Noon - Mairin Jackson

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:
5.00pm - Patricia Quinn, Joan Foley & Declan Rowsome
9.00am - Lizzie Connors, Marie Merrigan & Sr. Eucharia
10.00am - Paul Harrington & Khanh Phi Tran
12.00 Noon - Roy Murphy & Claire Nixon
Please contact your co-ordinator should you not be able to attend.



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.



New Year Eve Prayer

God our Father,
We give thanks for all that has been and, trustfully, we place the past into your hands. We ask you to inspire us in the year ahead to seek and fulfill your will. May we truly look on each new day as the start of the rest of our lives. Enable us, with the power of your Spirit, to remain positive and confident, and live fully and joyfully with those people you have placed into our lives. Lead us to bring out the best in one another that we may all grow as the people you call us to be.
In Jesus' name
I pray, Amen.



Wishing all our Parishioners
Health, Happiness & Peace for 2026.
Monsignor Joe, Fr. Odhran & Parish Office Staff



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

