

focus on sunday

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 11th January 2026

This is the feast of Jesus receiving from his Father the calling and mission which he followed through in his life, death and resurrection. We too are baptised into a similar relationship



The Great Turning. Full of conviction, passion and righteous anger, John the Baptist pleaded with people to turn around and "prepare the way" (3:3). Yet, in today's Gospel we meet a different John. He is surprised to see that Jesus has arrived to be baptised by him and feels unworthy of such a task. Jesus

explains to John that this is a necessary signal at the beginning of his ministry, a public statement of identity. It is also more than that. In Jesus' first spoken words in Matthew's Gospel he says this baptism is "to fulfil all righteousness", and here we have the central theme of Matthew's Gospel announced. In the Old Testament, "righteousness" literally meant 'right relationship'. It was not solely focused on an individual's repentance but referred to the turning around of God's people, a collective turning, towards restoration and justice across the land. Jesus at the Jordan stands with God's people, in solidarity yes, but also in his full human experience, in his living, suffering, dying, and in the making of straighter paths. Jesus is baptised in the Jordan because he is modelling the way for humanity as we strive for "righteousness" in our communities and in the complexities that life brings for each of us.

We are not short of situations in our world which require people to turn around and walk a new path. The environmental crisis is one example, calling the entire human species to wake up and walk an entirely different path in order to ensure a sustainable future for all. This requires a collective turning, what authors Joanna Macy & Chris Johnson call "The Great Turning". This Great Turning is the global awakening, the ecological revolution which is necessary, which is underway and which must be fully embraced if we are to bring healing to our world.

Jane Mellett & Triona Doherty. Adapted from The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew, Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2022.

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

When Jesus is baptised, He tells us that we have Three Special Friends. God The Father, who makes the sun shine on the good and not so good. God, The Son, who came at Christmas, to be our forever Friend, and God The Holy Spirit who is "The Breath of God" in us and in all the Universe. We bless ourselves in Thanks, and say "Glory be to The Father, and to The Son, and to The Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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.
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

**Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,
we may be your children in name and in truth. 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened
and the Father's voice resounded:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to
him.' Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 3: 13 - 17

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

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**After the Lord was baptized, the
heavens were opened, and the Spirit
descended upon him like a dove, and
the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I
am well pleased.**

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us....
Amen.

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

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in
the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit
descended upon him, solemnly declared
him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the
nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice:

he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the
cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed
you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 28:1 - 4. 9 - 10.

**R. The Lord will bless his people with
peace.**

- O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **[R]**
- The Lord's voice resounding on the
waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **[R]**
- The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **[R]**

SECOND READING Acts 10: 34 - 38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his
household: 'The truth I have now come
to realise' he said 'is that God does not
have favourites, but that anybody of any
nationality who fears God and does what
is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the
people of Israel, and it was to them that
the good news of peace was brought by
Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord
of all men. You must have heard about
the recent happenings in Judaea; about
Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in
Galilee, after John had been preaching
baptism. God had anointed him with the
Holy Spirit and with power, and because
God was with him, Jesus went about
doing good and curing all who had fallen
into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

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, Cooneys, Ryans & Doyles Funeral 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@
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Visit us on
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Ross Parish

Volume 45 No. 2


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 10th January 2026	5.00pm	Louis & Olive Connolly, Terenure, Dublin & New Ross	1st Anniversaries
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 11th January	8.00am	Maureen Murphy, Ballyrue	Remembrance
	9.00am	Edward & Eileen Delaney, Ard Na Greine, their daughter; Marie & their son; George	Anniversaries
	10.00am	John Godkin, Harvey Place	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Olive Hickey (nee O'Connor), Castlehaven, Mountgarrett Road Michael Murphy, Pondfields	1st Anniversary - Months Mond
Monday 12th January	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	Jimmy & Betty Murphy, Fairgate	Anniversaries
Tuesday 13th January	8.00am	Special Intention	Special Intention
	10.00am	Dolores Sutton, Southknock	Anniversary
	Adoration takes place after 10.00am Mass until 8.00pm		
Wednesday 14th January	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Buddy, Bill & Kevin Flanagan, Upper Mary Street	Anniversaries
Thursday 15th January	8.00am	Special Intention	Special Intention
	10.00am	Nicholas & Bridget Carney, Ard Mhicil	Anniversaries
	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Friday 16th January	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Tilly & Peter Nolan, Duncannon & their children; Michael Martin & Peter	Anniversaries
Saturday 17th January	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	JJ Morrissey, Barrack Lane	1st Anniversaries
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 18th January	8.00am	John & Mary Anne Cullen, Newbawn	Anniversaries
	9.00am	Eamon Somers, Chambersland	Anniversary
	10.00am	David Cass, Convent Court	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Robert Rochford, Upper William Street Kathleen Allen, Charleton Hill	Months Mind Months Mind



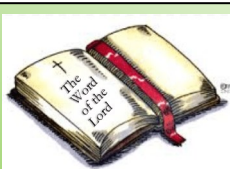
It has been brought to our attention by the Fire Marshal that parking in undesignated areas within the Church Grounds is not acceptable, as this may cause a dangerous situation should an emergency occur. Thank you.

History Notes - Part 106:

MATT BOWE, BLACKSMITH




Matt Bowe, the blacksmith, lived in Michael Street opposite the entrance to Barrack Lane. He had a fine family, and his wife was a big woman who assisted him in his blacksmithing duties as a striker of the red-hot iron. Each morning, Matt, with his wife on board, headed for Camblin in his ass and car to his forge on a little road off Mogue Nolan's Hill. Like many country forges, his establishment at Camblin was a favourite meeting place for locals and for farmers who enjoyed the chat while their horses were being shod. Matt was a small nervous man and very superstitious and had great fear of the devil and the hereafter. The local joker, Jack Turner, enjoyed frightening Matt with tales of fairies and the other world and had him convinced that if he (Jack) struck the anvil in a particular way the devil would appear out of the flames. Matt was very religious and had holy pictures hanging in several locations in and around the forge. A farmer brought his horse to Matt to replace a shoe; Matt was busy and could not attend to him right way. "Tie him over there beside the Sacred Heart and I'll attend to him later" advised Matt. **Courtesy of Jim Sutton**



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. Eucharist
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.



Eucharistic Ministers

Congratulations

BAPTISMS:
We welcome into our Christian Community: Sophie, St. Ledger, NY, USA, who was baptised recently in our Parish Church. Baptisms take place on the First Saturday & Third Sunday @ 1.00pm each month. A Minimum two weeks notice is required & a maximum of four candidates per booking. No Private Baptism booking can be accommodated. 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.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

Catholic Marriage Encounter in Ireland. *Dates: 20 -22 March 2026*
A WEEKEND LIKE NO OTHER. *Venue: "St Marys" Knock, Co. Mayo* Online: www.marriageencounter.ie

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 30th January 2026: Bishop Ger celebrates 10.00am Mass in Parish Church with local primary school pupils for Catholic Schools Week.
Monday 2nd February 2026: Parish Office Closed. Bank Holiday. Presentation of the Lord Candlemas Day. Blessing of Candles will take place at all masses. Please ensure your name is clearly on your candles & collected in a timely manner on the day.
Tuesday 3rd February 2026: Feast of St. Blaise. Blessing of Throats will take place at all masses. 1.05pm & 7.00pm, blessing of throats only.
Wednesday 11th February 2026: Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick, Anointing of the Sick at all Masses & @ 3.00pm.
Tuesday 17th February 2026: Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day.
Wednesday 18th February 2026: Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be given at all Masses. Ashes only @ 1.05pm & 7.00pm.



† DIOCESE OF FERNS
In the spirit of St Brigid
Sacred Earth, Sacred People
JOIN THE CELEBRATION



Sacred Earth, Sacred People - In the Spirit of St Brigid is a diocesan initiative encouraging parishes, schools and communities to celebrate St Brigid's Day outdoors. It honours St Brigid's peace, hospitality, healing and care for creation. The celebration features:

- ✓ A short outdoor liturgy led by lay people
- ✓ A simple pilgrimage walk
- ✓ Prayer with water
- ✓ Blessing of St Brigid's Crosses

When: **Around 1 February 2026**
Start At : Time of your choosing
Where: Any safe place of natural beauty



RESOURCES FOR PARISHES



Booklet



Facebook page

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE





PILGRIMAGE FROM NEW ROSS TO MEDJUGORJE 2026
Dublin to Medjugorje in half the time

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO MOSTAR-MEDJUGORJE
28th October - 4th November 2026
€865
Price increases to €915 after 30th January 2026

Accompanied by **Monsignor Joseph Joe McGrath** as Spiritual Director
For more information on joining the group please contact
Lizzie Connors
(087) 340 4933

Price Includes

- Flight from Dublin direct to Mostar- Medjugorje
- Returning from Split Airport to Dublin
- 7 nights accommodation near to St. James' Church with breakfast and dinner
- Luxury coach transfers with local guide
- Full Religious programme operated by Marian Pilgrimages
- Assistance of Marian Pilgrimages rep. with 24hr support throughout your stay.
- All airport and local taxes.
- Price includes early booking discount of €50

Not included
Travel Insurance €35 up to 79 years
€70 for those 80 - 94
Single Room Supplement €170



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