

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

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

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.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Ecc 24:1-2.8-12*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself.

She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One.

'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.

He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance."

From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain.

I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion.

In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.

I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps.147:12-15.19-20*

R. The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you. **[R]**

2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command. **[R]**

3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. **[R]**

SECOND READING *Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18 (or *1:1-5.9-14*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. (shorter version in italics)

** In the beginning was the Word:*

the Word was with God

and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,

not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

and that life was the light of men,

a light that shines in the dark,

*a light that darkness could not overpower.**

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

**The Word was the true light*

that enlightens all men;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him who

was born not out of human stock

or urge of the flesh

or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,

he lived among us, and we saw his glory,

the glory that is his as the only Son

*of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,

for by it you show us the way of truth

and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

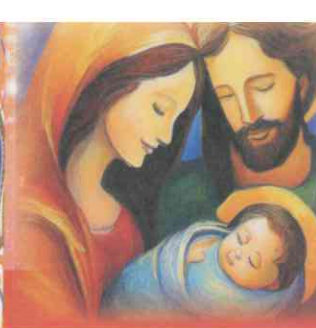
And with your spirit.

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.



focus on sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 4th January 2026

Jesus is the One sent by God who speaks to us about the wisdom and truth of God. By accepting him we too become children of God and are filled with grace and truth.

The light shines in the dark.

JOHN 1:5



Today's Gospel, the Prologue of John, is one of the most poetic, symbolic, and theologically rich passages in our Scriptures. It places Christ at the very dawn of time, at the creation of the world, and is unequivocal in its assertion of his full humanity and full divinity.

The imagery of light is particularly striking in this passage: it is a powerful, illuminating beam, which cannot be swallowed up in darkness. In the Nativity of Our Lord, which we have just celebrated, the birth of Jesus defies the odds by emerging in a very dark, grim situation. John contextualises this today by bathing the birth of a small baby in the eternal light beaming from God the Father. This is where Jesus's power comes from, and this power to become a child of God is shared with us, when we accept the Lord into our hearts and our lives. We do this by allowing God's light to shine through us: to illuminate both our own paths and those of others, safe in the conviction that our light will always cut through the darkness even if, at certain times, we are around a corner and cannot see its healing, almighty beam.

This Prologue also highlights the divine sacredness of the Word of God. Somewhat incongruous with a disposable paper leaflet you hold in your hands! As Mary handled the new-born Jesus with the utmost love and reverence, we too are called to treat the Word with the same care.!

Dr Giovanna Feeley, DCU School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

God Our Father wanted to share happiness. So God made the sun, the stars, the mountains, the oceans. They were "God's Voice," but they could not speak "words." Then, God made human beings, boys and girls who could speak words, like love, please, thanks, sorry. God made all people in the image and likeness of His Own Son, Jesus Christ, and He is called "THE WORD OF GOD." To be human and happy is to follow Jesus, and learn to love. The Angelus Bell always reminds us of God's Love Story.



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
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(Text Alert Only)



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Volume 45 No. 1


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 3rd January 2026	5.00pm	Andy Cullen, Abbeyview House	14th Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 4th January 2026	8.00am	Special Intention	Special Intention
	9.00am	Tom & Kathleen Caulfield, Wexford Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Nicholas Cashin, William Street	Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Michael & Anna Sheehan, Cross Street & their daughter; Margaret	Anniversaries
Monday 5th 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	Deceased members of the Lyng family, Ballyanne	Remembrance
	5.00pm	Peggy Henneberry, Charleton Hill	5th Anniversary
Tuesday 6th January	8.00am	Breda Hayden (nee Kehoe), Carlow & Newbawn	Anniversary
	10.00am	Gerry Moore, Tinnakilly, Rosbercon	Anniversary
	NO adoration will take place		
Wednesday 7th January	1.05pm	Paula Leahy, Ard Mhicil	9th Anniversary
	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Joe Mernagh, St. Joseph's Square	4th Anniversary
Thursday 8th January	10.30am	Parish Office Re-opens	
	8.00am	Moira Place, Rosemount Hill	Anniversary
	10.00am	Monica O'Connor, Longstone Drive	5th Anniversary
Friday 9th January	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
Saturday 10th January	10.00am	Tricia O'Neill, Mount Carmel	Anniversary
	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	Louis & Olive Connolly, Terenure, Dublin & New Ross	1st Anniversaries
Sunday 11th January	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
	8.00am	Maureen Murphy, Ballyrue	Anniversary
	9.00am	Edward & Eileen Delaney, Ard Na Greine, their daughter; Marie & Son; George	Anniversaries
	10.00am	John Godkin, Harvey Place	1st Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Olive Hickey (nee O'Connor), Castlehaven, Mountgarrett Road	1st Anniversary




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):
The Reynolds Family - Remembrance
Altar (Centre):
Nancy & Jimmy Martin, Ard Na Greine - Remembrance
St. Joseph's (Right):
William St. Ledger, William Street & Stephen St. Ledger, Bewley Street - Anniversaries
Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
Special Intentions



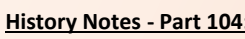
ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - JJ Maddock, Mount Carmel, Jimmy & Betty Murphy, Fairgate, Nicholas Cashin, William Street, Helen Barrett, Arklow, Patrick Kinsella, Ballylane, Francie Doyle, Priory Street & Philip May, Priory Street, whose anniversaries occur around this time.
*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.




BAPTISMS:
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.



On Wednesday 7th of January 2026 the Parish Office will re-open & will be taking mass bookings up to & including June 2026



History Notes - Part 104:



THE CANONS REGULAR OF SAINT AUGUSTINE -
The Regular Canons, sometimes called Austin Canons, were the first priests to minister in the new Norman town of New Ross. They were quite distinct from the later Augustinian Order which succeeded them. The Canons Regular emerged as a result of efforts of Popes and Councils to induce priests to renounce private property, to recite the divine office and live as a community. The early Austin Canons were men of the Norman race and were spiritual lords and had seats in the national parliament. These included Patrick Barrett from the Kells house of Austin Canons who resided at Mount Garret castle and was Bishop of Ferns in 1400. The early town churches, which predated the Great Church of St. Saviour's (now St. Mary's) in Mary Street, included St. Evins church. The Canons lived in community beside St. Evin's which had its narrow grounds and little cemetery at John Street. Though they resembled monks, they undertook full parocial duties in the town and were subject to the Bishop. St. Evin's continued in operation for some three hundred years until the dissolution of monasteries in the mid-sixteenth century. The Order of Canons Regular was itself a victim of the dissolution but re-emerged as today's Augustinian Friars who ministered in town until recent years and still serve the town at Good Counsel College.

History Notes - Part 105:
BILL THE TRIPPER
Bill was an enthusiastic member of Camblin Rovers Football Club in the early days of the last century. But he was a useless footballer, and, despite continuous practice, could never get his place on the team. On is way back from a match, with his football boots on the handlebars of his bike, to the boys enquiring at the crossroads whether he made the team, his answer was always the same – "they had enough".
Bill lived on the by- road off Moge Nowlan's Hill in Camblin – this by-road now leads past Creacon Lodge. His house was beside Matt Bowe's forge and Bill had goalposts in the field behind his house where he practiced. With his wife as goalkeeper, Bill would solo alone from midfield and crash the ball past her in goal, shouting "Come out and meet me, you coward!"
One moonlight summer's night, Bill's colleagues were returing at a very late hour from Long's Pub in Ballykelly when they heard a football hop – Bill was practicing alone in the moonlight. The boys crept quietly into Bill's field and stripped to their boots near the ditch. When the ball came near them, they ran out towards it, shouting. Poor Bill was panic-stricken and nearly took the back door off it's hinges in flight.
Courtesy of Jim Sutton



ATTENTION PLEASE

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.

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





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.



Prayers For Peace

WHEN THE WORLD HOLDS NO PEACE

1. Jesus, help me hold on to the peace You give. Please make Your peace replace my fear. (John 14:27)
2. Jesus, please guard my heart and mind with Your peace. (Philippians 4:7)
3. Jesus, Lord of peace, please give me peace no matter what is happening. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
4. Lord, please help my mind stay on You and help me trust You so I can rest in Your perfect peace. (Isaiah 26:3)
5. Oh Lord, please shine on me, bless and keep me, and give me peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)



A Prayer for Peace of Mind

Lord, fill my heart with your peace today. May your peace rule within my heart, my mind, and my soul. With gratitude and thanksgiving, I rejoice in the joy I can experience through your perfect peace. On the tough days when life is filled with insurmountable challenges, grant me peace of mind that transcends all understanding. Amen.



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.

