

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. 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

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus. If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34

R. They are happy who follow God's law!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2: 6 - 10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 17 - 37

(or *5:20-22.27-28.33-34.37) (Shorter form in italics)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. Jesus said to his disciples: Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in

the kingdom of heaven.

*For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court,* if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

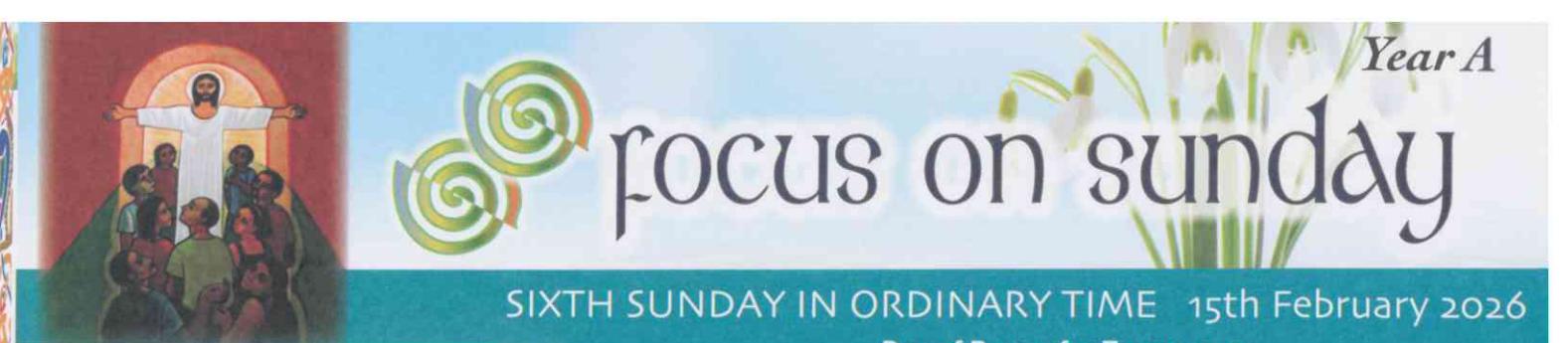
You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black.

All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The word of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



focus on sunday

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15th February 2026

Day of Prayer for Temperance

The gospel of Christ will often force difficult decisions in our lives. The gospel offers a fullness of life which in turn offers us joy and a meaning of life which promises a hope and love that is eternal.



This Sunday immediately before Lent is a day of prayer and reflection on Temperance. The psalm texts "they are happy who do his will" and "may my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes" resonate in the hearts of all who are recalibrating their lives according to the Twelve Step Programme and their AA meetings.

They know the beautiful truth which Jesus radiates in the Gospels and the Sacraments. This truth is summarised by Sr Consilio in Cuan Mhuire in the simple message "God made me good". Accepting this truth, they have found daily happiness in "all that God has prepared for those who love him."

The high standards which they now set for themselves bring joy and peace back into homes which had lived under a dark shadow of addiction. Gone are the days of "an eye for an eye". With the kind support of family and of a Sponsor, their daily journey from addiction towards recovery continues on with the help of prayer and meditation.

I invite you to take the Pioneer pledge for Lent as a gesture of solidarity with people who are living "one day at a time" according to the 12 Step AA programme. Drop me a line to prayer@pioneers.ie

Fr Robert McCabe www.pioneers.ie

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus tells us that the Law of Love, is better than the love of law. Laws are important, but not complete, without the heart of love. I can read books, and know about Love, but loving means kindness, putting others first, caring, saying thanks, offering help. The Holy Spirit helps to make our knowing into loving. No matter how much I think I'm right, it's good to say, but I may be wrong.



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)



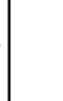
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Volume 45 No. 7



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 14th February	5.00pm	Elizabeth (Betty) Brothers (nee O'Neill), Michael Street	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 15th February 	8.00am	Frances & Derry O'Sullivan, Southknock	Anniversaries
	9.00am	Maurice Foley & members of the Foley & Brennan Families, Cross Street & Castlecomer	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Tom Doyle, Charleton Hill 	Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Kathleen Lenehan (nee Dempsey), Hospital Road Jimmy Flynn, The Bosheen	Months Mind Months Mind
	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
Monday 16th February	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	Michael Freaney, Ballylane	Anniversary
	8.00am	Joseph & Pattie Kavanagh, their sons; JJ & Pat, Bewley Street	Anniversaries
Tuesday 17th February 	10.00am	James & Margaret Howlett & Ellen Kelly, William Street	Anniversaries
	Adoration takes place after 10.00am Mass until 8.00pm 		
Wednesday 18th February 	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Micheal & Mary Druhan, William Street	Anniversaries
	Distribution of Ashes will take place at all masses.		
	1.05pm	Distribution of Ashes ONLY	
	7.00pm	Distribution of Ashes ONLY	
Thursday 19th February 	8.00am	Larry & Josie Murray, Boley, Ballycullane	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Patrick & Edith O'Donovan, Arthurstown	Anniversaries
	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Friday 20th February	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	James Ryan & his daughter; Annie, Ard Na Greine	Anniversaries
	7.00pm	Lenten Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 21st February	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Parish Mass Association	
	5.00pm	Garry O'Farrell, Cluain Fada	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
	8.00am	Jack Foley, Irishtown	Anniversary
Sunday 22nd February 	9.00am	Mary, Don, Tom & John Whitty, Camblin	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Edward (Eddie) Poyntz, Ard Na Greine 	Anniversary
	Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass		
	12.00 Noon	Joan Kehoe, Charleton Hill	Months Mind

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

St. Mary's Retreat Centre, Knock

20-22 March 2026

Rediscover the joy of your love

- Heartfelt conversations
- Peaceful surroundings
- Time to reflect and grow together

Apply online at
www.marriageencounter.ie

Limited places - book early!

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

Eucharistic Ministers

FEBRUARY 2025

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm - Mary Harnedy
9.00am - Lizzie Connors
10.00am - Maureen Clarkin

12.00 Noon - Pat Rossiter

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

5.00pm - Adrian & Mary Maher & Marian Dalton

9.00am - Wendy Cullen & Kitty Warren

10.00am - Brendan Murphy, Margaret Campion & Liam Nolan

12.00 Noon - Mairin Jackson & Rita Condon

Please contact your co-ordinator should you not be able to attend.

PARKING in undesignated areas within the Church Grounds is not acceptable, as this may cause a dangerous situation should an emergency occur. Thank you.



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 or 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): Billy Cashin, Tower Grove - 70th Birthday Remembrance
Altar (Centre): Deceased members of the Ryan Family - Remembrance
St. Joseph's (Right): Michael Eyre, Carlow - Remembrance
Blessed Sacrament Chapel: Special Intentions

In Remembrance

Congratulations

RECENTLY DECEASED:

We remember & pray of the souls of - Peggy Foran, Pondfields, James Hendrick, Knockroe, Robbie Doherty, Glenmore, Paddy (Patrick) Rochford, Pondfields, James (Jimmy) Caulfield, Nunnery Lane, Michael O'Connor, Ballylane, & Fr. Richard (Dick) Hayes, Cullenstown, who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:

We remember & pray for the souls of - Michael Foley, Lower William Street, Gerldine & Thomas Foley, Charleton Hill, Regina Laffan, McMurrough Court, Michael (Mickey) Eyre, Carlow, Richie Butler, Mount Carmel, Lalo Malone, Hewittsland, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 17th February 2026: Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day.

Wednesday 18th February 2026: Ash Wednesday.

Wednesday 20th February 2026: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm.

Sunday 22nd February 2026: First Sunday of Lent.

Friday 27th February 2026: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm.

Sunday 1st March 2026: Second Sunday of Lent.

Friday 6th March 2026: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm.

Wednesday 4th March 2026: Confirmation Service of Light @ 7.00pm.

Saturday 7th March 2026: New Ross Parish Sacrament of Confirmations @ 11.00am & 12.30pm.

Ecumenical Quiet Day in the Ballyvaloo Centre on Thursday the 26th February, 11.15a.m. - 4.00p.m. The day will be led by Michael Dillon, the Centre's director. The theme is, "Embracing new beginnings and growth with ease in challenging times." Contribution payable on the day is €35 includes lunch and coffee on arrival. Please text or ring Fr. James Murphy on 087 8152637 if you wish to attend.



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.

History Notes - Part 110:

THE PONDS: Long ago, before public transport and indeed motor cars were common, The Ponds in the Maudlins were a great venue for the young and not-so-young in summertime. The popular route to The Ponds was past Barretts Park (now Kennedy Park) and down Hookmill Lane to the point on the Maudlin Stream at the bridge where the flow widened into a large shallow pool. Mammies and aunties brought their children there and sat in the daisies as they enjoyed the antics of youngsters wading and splashing for sunny hours with their friends. Despite its modest flow, the Maudlin Stream played a very important part in corn milling industry from medieval times right up to early last century and continued its role as a good trout stream into modern times. I was a keen fisherman of the Maudlin Stream in my youth and will never forget the (to me) two massive trout (each over a pound weight) which I landed after a summer thunderstorm downpour. The Stream, which meets the Barrow at Ballyanne had another swimming spot further down from the Ponds. There the stream was dammed to form a deepish swimming pool known as The Lady's Tank – the origins of the name long forgotten. At the top of Hookmill Lane the road branches left and downhill and is known as Paul Connor's Lane. This laneway formed part of the main New Ross/Dublin coach road of long ago and crossed the Stream at a point close to the ancient Bishop's Mill site. It continued up through McMurrough where a small, cobbled section of this ancient thoroughfare, known as The Battery, can still be traced.

Courtesy of Jim Sutton

The Diocese of Ferns Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from **16th-21st May 2026**. We are Inviting applications for Assisted Pilgrims and Helpers to join us on this wonderful pilgrimage. Contact Will Neville, President of the Hospitalité on 086 889 1899 or Tricia Murphy, Pilgrimage Secretary on 086 323 4551 for more details for helpers or assisted pilgrims. (Booking link for general pilgrims. [Pilgrimages to Lourdes | Marian Pilgrimages | Ireland](#))

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE 2026 - 20th to 27th May 2026 Dublin to Dubrovnic - Spiritual Director Fr. Jim Finn - €875
Fully Guided daily programme by Marian Pilgrimage Guides. Single room Supplement €170. Prices are P.P.S. Flights, Bus transfers, B&B & Dinner included.
(Not Included: Travel Insurance €35 up 79 years €70 for those over 80) For more information Contact Ann Murphy 087 2254206.

Totus Tuus 2026 Fatima Pilgrimage
The Totus Tuus annual pilgrimage to Fatima will take place from **28th August to 4th September**. Learn about the Fatima Message, the Rosary, the First Saturdays, the lives of the three visionaries, and visit the tomb and home of Blessed Alexandrina Da Costa, who lived solely on the Eucharist for 13 years. The cost is €915 which includes, flights, half board accommodation, airport transfers, day trip to Balasar, trip to Valinhos and Adjustrel, trip to the Irish Dominican Sisters' Convent. There are places available to fly from Cork Airport, and also from Dublin Airport. Limited places are available. For more information call Damien on 087 20 49 048.

You are invited to attend the

St Patrick's College Maynooth

ANNUAL TRÓCAIRE LECTURE

"Care for Creation Amidst the Cries of War - Working for Peace in the Earth Community"

"A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach ... so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

Laudato Si', 49

Our keynote speaker is Dr Hugo Slim, Director of the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford. Moderator for the evening is Séán Farrell, CEO, Trócaire. Dr Hugo Slim

The event will take place in person in Renehan Hall, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, followed by refreshments. The event will also be live-streamed.

Tuesday, 3 March 2026 at 7 p.m. GMT
Registration for this event is required.

For information please email: maria.murphy@trocraire.org

