

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.**

## 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.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7***A reading from the book of Genesis**

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17*

**R. Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we have sinned.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **[R]**

- My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **[R]**
- A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your  
presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **[R]**
- Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth  
shall declare your praise. **[R]**

SECOND READING *Romans 5:12-19***(or \*5:12.17-19 Shorter Form) A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*\*Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.\** Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. *\*If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.\**

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ,  
king of eternal glory!  
Man does not live on  
bread alone, but on  
every word that comes  
from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, O Christ,  
king of eternal glory!**

GOSPEL *Matthew 4:1 - 11***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the

wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

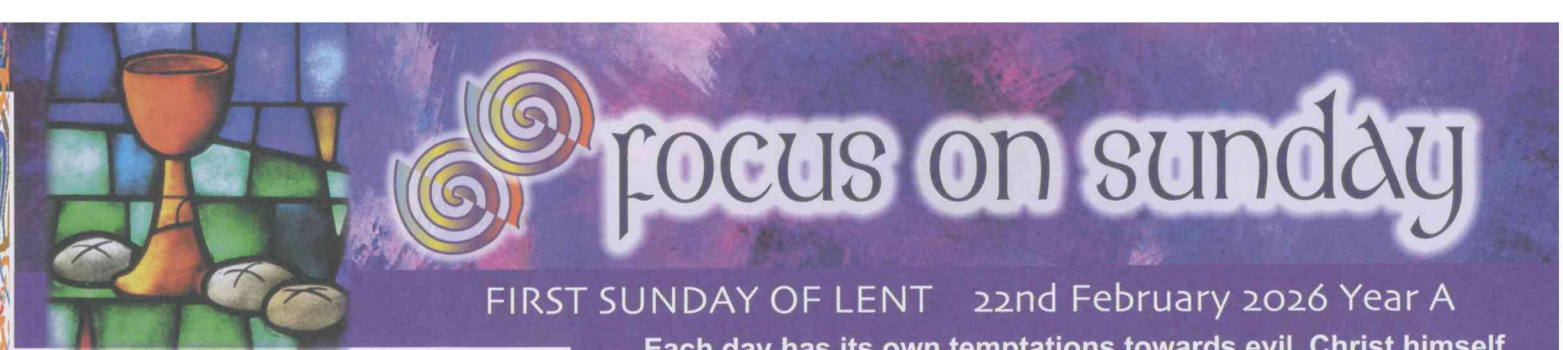
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## 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:*

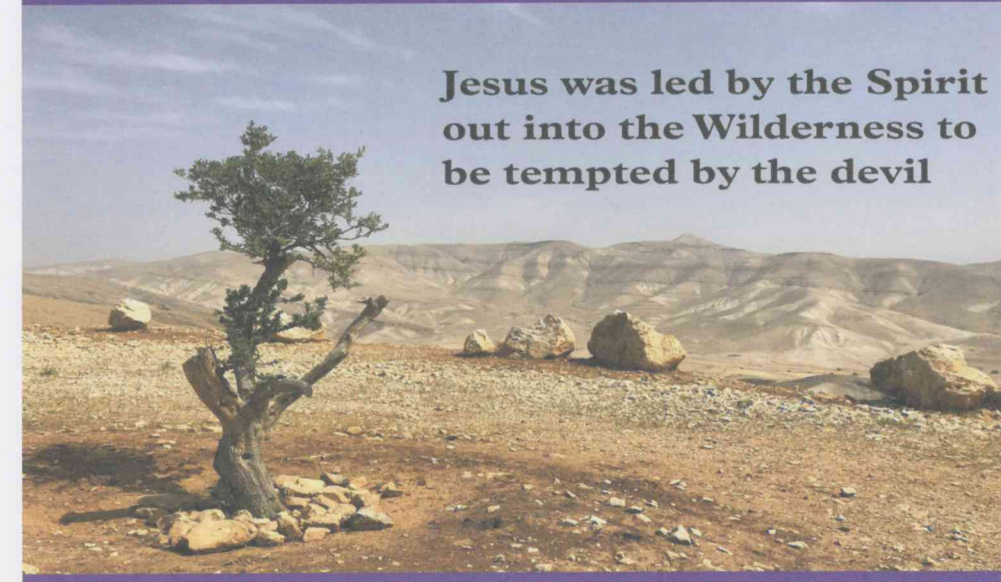
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and  
was buried, and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the  
right hand of 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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 22nd February 2026 Year A

**Each day has its own temptations towards evil. Christ himself was tempted away from good and from what he knew was best in life. As the angels looked after him in his temptation, so he and his saints look after us in ours.**

**Jesus was led by the Spirit  
out into the Wilderness to  
be tempted by the devil**



We have all had the experience of needing time apart to prepare for significant life events. Time can feel suspended as we are fully absorbed in pondering the future. We often emerge from such times with a new understanding of ourselves, of what is important to us, and what our purpose in life is.

Jesus's time apart to prepare for his upcoming ministry sees him come face-to-face with the deepest recesses of human nature. The number forty is symbolic: the Israelites spent forty years in the desert, where they were tempted into idolatry, and Moses spent forty days and nights on Mount Sinai. As Jesus emerges from his time of reflection, hungry and willing to sacrifice himself, the devil subjects him to a triple temptation, all with the same aim: to rebel against God and deny his vocation. Of course, these temptations are particularly potent, as Jesus knows the path he has been called to will lead to abject bodily suffering, death, and ignominy – the very opposite of what the devil offers.

Jesus refuses to test God. Today's responsorial psalm reminds us that, while to err is human, to forgive is divine. Jesus's strength in the face of temptation is not a challenge to us, but a reminder that he was fully human while being fully divine. His humanity enables him to understand our human weaknesses and yearnings, and his divinity enables us to know we are forgiven and loved when our path becomes unclear.

**Dr Giovanna Feeley,**

DCU School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music

**Jesus' Story**

*Fr. Liam Hickey*

Jesus was tempted to be selfish, and make food for himself, to do magic and be noticed, and have a lot of money. I bring Love, Jesus said, because God is Love. Only love makes us really happy. With love there is always giving with our hearts to help others. Everyday we can help at home, at work, and travelling on the road. Lord, You accepted temptation to bless us.





# 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@  
newrossparish.ie



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Volume 45 No. 8

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 21st February	10.00am	Parish Mass Association <b>** Please note this is the last Saturday 10.00am Mass going forward.</b>	
	5.00pm	Garry O'Farrell, Cluain Fada	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 22nd February <div>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</div>	8.00am	Jack Foley, Irishtown	Anniversaries
	9.00am	Mary, Don, Tom & John Whitty, Camblin <b>** Please note this is the last Sunday 9.00am Mass going forward.</b> <b>** If you have a 9am Mass booked the Parish Office will be in contact with you shortly to re-schedule.</b>	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Edward (Eddie) Poyntz, Ard Na Greine	1st Anniversary
	Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass		
	12.00 Noon	Joan Kehoe, Charleton Hill	Months Mind
Monday 23rd February	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 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month the Novena to Our Lady of Fatima is held @ 9.15am	
	10.00am	The O'Brien family, Trinity House	Anniversaries
Tuesday 24th February	8.00am	Special Intention	Special Intention
	10.00am	Joe Murphy, Castlemoyle Heights	Anniversary
Adoration takes place after 10.00am Mass until 8.00pm			
Wednesday 25th February <div>COFFEE MORNING</div>	8.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
	10.00am	Patrick & Elizabeth St. Ledger & deceased family members, Mount Carmel	Remembrance
Monthly Parish Coffee Morning after 10.00am Mass in the Sacristy, All Welcome.			
Thursday 26th 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 27th 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 28th February	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	5.00pm	Anna Mai Merrigan, Parkfield	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 1st March <div>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</div>	8.00am	Maurice, Josephine & Laurence Kehoe, Ryleen	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Tommy & Peg O'Brien, Ard Mhicil	Anniversary
	Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass		
	12.00 Noon		Months Mind



### 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 Fottrell & Cody Families, New Ross - Remembrance

**Altar (Centre):**  
Betty & Donal Byrne, Dublin - Remembrance

**St. Joseph's (Right):**  
Special Exam Intentions

**Blessed Sacrament Chapel:**  
The Leacy Family, Charleton Hill - Remembrance

### 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

**MARCH 2026**

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD:**  
5.00pm - Mary Rowe  
10.00am - Georgina Fleming  
12.00 Noon - Pat Wickham

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:**  
5.00pm - Rita Sinnott, Anne Rochford & Liam Nolan  
10.00am - Nan Furlong, Kathleen & David Maher  
12.00 Noon - Jagienka Borecka & Murray O'Brien

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

### History Notes - Part 111:

#### RELIGIOUS PRACTICE DURING MY BOYHOOD

When I was a small boy, religious practice was taken a lot more seriously than it is today. Sunday Masses filled the church, with other ceremonies routinely well attended. Parish clergy had more authority and influence on people's lives and were well respected for it. The best attended Sunday Mass was last Mass at 11.30am which was usually packed. The centre aisle, left side facing the altar was the women's preserve, with the right aisle for men. Head covering by women was obligatory whether by headscarf or hat/cap, while men were bare headed. Headscarves with bright colours or with pictures were frowned upon as a distraction. Lent and Christmas ceremonies were very important – with "giving up" some luxury for Lent as a penance while daily Mass during the seven weeks of Lent was popular but difficult to sustain. First Friday Mass was very well attended while Seven First Fridays promised a special reward in Heaven. Legion of Mary, Children of Mary and Holy Family Weekly Sodality were in full swing, and the brass rings on the outside of the pews in the main aisle of our church are a relic of the Sodality banners which they supported. Denis Corish and I, as small boys, were advised by old Paddy Dunne seated in the sun in the church grounds that "the most important thing in this life is to save your soul". During a Mission, the town nuisance with too much drink on board made his way to the organ gallery where he roared encouragement to the preacher "Give them Hell, Father!!" and as he had been led away finished with the government slogan of the day "Grow more wheat!"  
**Courtesy of Jim Sutton**

### In Remembrance

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**  
We remember & pray of the souls of - V. Rev. Odhran Furlong PP VF, New Ross, Adamstown & Enniscorthy, Fr. David Keating, Waterford City & College Chaplin of SETU Waterford, Frank O'Brien, Campile & "Franks Dry Cleaners" South Street & David Laffan, Borris, Carlow, New Ross & Dublin, who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:**  
We remember & pray for the souls of - Alice Quinn, Priory Street, Maurice, Josephine & Laurence Kehoe, Ryleen, Fr. John Carey, Co. Clare, Breda & Ned Sinnott, Rosbercon, Walter & Anna Bradley, Knockavilla & The Leacy family, Charleton Hill 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.

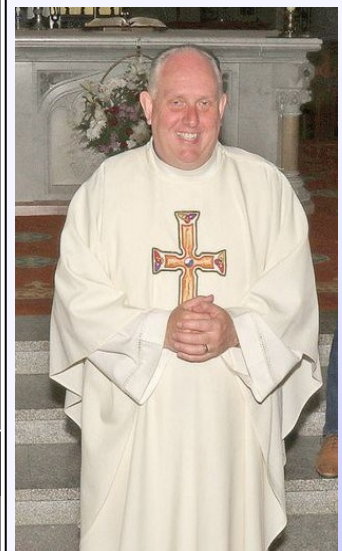
### Congratulations

**BAPTISMS:**  
We welcome into our Christian Community - Caragh McWhite, Chambersland Close, Mia Maja Kostera, Chambersland Close, Shay Long, Stephens Court & Oliver Grangel Prendergast, Ballyrue, who were 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.

*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

**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.  
**Tuesday 3rd March 2026:** First confessions will take place in the Schools.  
**Wednesday 4th March 2026:** Confirmation Service of Light will take place during School time.  
**Friday 6th March 2026:** Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm  
**Saturday 7th March 2026:** New Ross Parish Sacrament of Confirmations @ 11.00am (Ms. Harrington, Ms. Power Classes & Parish based Preparation Group) & 12.30pm (Ms. Keenan & Ms. Callaghan Classes).  
**Sunday 8th March 2026:** Third Sunday of Lent.



**V. Rev. Odhrán Furlong PP VF - RIP**

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‘The Elephant in the Room’ is a saying that refers to a situation where, for example, a group of people are busily talking about a particular subject, while the minds of everyone in the group is totally focused on a different subject.

During the last week we have found ourselves in a similar situation. We have gone around thinking and talking about all types of things, while we knew that the only real subject in our minds was the sudden death of Fr. Odhrán. It is difficult to think or talk about him in those terms - that he has gone from us without warning.

The poet, Lord Alfred Tennyson wrote the poem ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’ in which he talks about soldiers, who die in war:

‘THEIR’S IS NOT TO REASON WHY’

In our situation, we can’t ‘reason why’ either but we need to ask the question : Why is a young man - multi-talented, full of life and energy, with so much to offer and so badly needed - taken away suddenly?

The answer is not to be found this side of the grave. God’s ways are certainly not our ways!

In our pain at his loss, all we can do is to be thankful for all he accomplished in so short a while.

Our sympathises to his mother Angela, his father Tom, his sisters Niamh and Majella, to Louise and Chris, nieces, nephews, uncles and aunts and the extended family.

God will have noticed a life well-lived for others and will respond with equal generosity, as He welcomes Odhrán home, to be united with his brother Tom, where both will continue their love and care for the family.

Death ends a life on earth but not a relationship. Memories never fade, for **‘MEMORY IS THE ONLY FRIEND THAT GRIEF CAN CALL IT’S OWN’.**

**REST EASY, DEAR FRIEND OF SO MANY.**

### THANK YOU

The past week has been hectic. Besides dealing with the shock of Fr. Odhrán’s unexpected passing, we had to keep our minds on all the practicalities with which we were presented at short notice. I want to acknowledge the willingness of so many people to involve themselves - The Office Staff, The Sacristans, those who directed traffic in the car park, those who directed the large numbers that thronged the Church. Those who catered for visiting clergy, the support offered by the above and many others is greatly appreciated.

