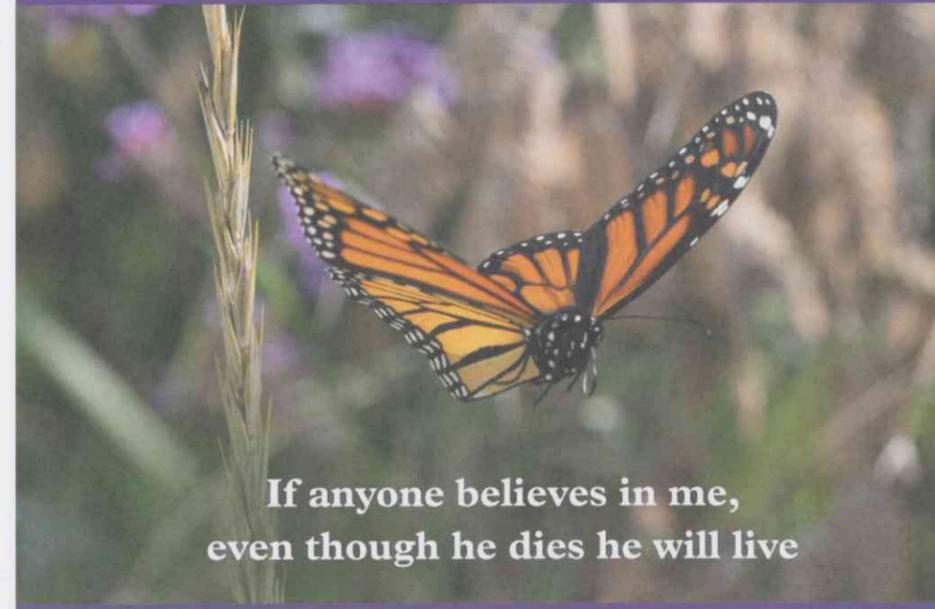


# focus on sunday

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 22nd March 2026 Year A

The gospel of Jesus is one of hope. In raising someone from death he promises companionship, hope and eternal presence to all his people. This is the message of Christian hope.



**If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live**



In today's dramatic narrative we read how Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany because Jesus' opponents want to stone him to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb.

It appears as if there is no hope as even Jesus weeps, sharing in this grief and distress as he stands before the tomb of Lazarus. If Lazarus represents anything, he represents all of humanity, and the tomb holds all the situations of death in our world: grief, poverty, heartache, war, injustice, despair, brokenness.

In our own lives, feelings of anxiety, resentment and worries can imprison us. But the good news is we do not have to live in despair. The story of Lazarus invites all of us to resurrection in the here and now! Jesus calls us out of the tomb and into the fullness of life, to experience the consolation of God's love and peace today, not somewhere far off in the future.

It is often easier to remain in the tomb, we tell ourselves, "this will do." But Jesus wants more for us and says, "Lazarus, come forth." To the people Jesus demands, "Unbind him, let him go" and then "They took away the stone". In this story of liberation, we are given a new insight into the power of faith and love. During Lent, this is a message for us all to turn away from a culture of death; to help unbind one another and to allow ourselves and others to emerge into the light. To be saved in this sense is to be made well, to restore wholeness and happiness. In the global sense it means acknowledging that "Injustice is not invincible" (Laudato Si' §74). What comes to mind when you think of a culture of death? Where do you see people trying to move the stone? Where do you see people liberated, free to live in the fullness of life?

At the heart of this story is the fact that love can conquer all, even death and despair. We can all share in this risen life, in love and peace, today. Jesus comes so that we may live life to the full (Jn 10:10).

Jane Mellett is the co-author of *The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew*, Messenger Publications, 2022

## 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**  
 Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice.  
 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....

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**  
*The mystery of faith.*  
 We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**  
**Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
 We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion.  
 Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**  
 Bless, O Lord, your people, who long for the gift of your mercy, and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire they may receive by your generous gift. 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, glorifying the Lord by your life. **Thanks be to God.**

are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart,

'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in 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.

## SECOND READING Romans 8: 8 - 11

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

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



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; who ever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

## GOSPEL John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45

**(Shorter Form Only)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.** The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already.

When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.'

Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.**

## 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

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.... **Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING Ezekiel 37: 12 -14

#### **A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 129

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!  
 O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
 But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.  
 My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **(R)**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **(R)**

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd.

# 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



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**Volume 45 No. 12**

**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	Intention	Notes
Saturday 21st March	5.00pm	Marcella & John Joe Meehan, Charleton Hill	Anniversaries
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 22nd March <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8.00am	Bea Walsh, Irishtown	5th Anniversary
	10.00am	Dixie & Biddy Brazil, Abbey View Lal Sinnott, Maiden Lane * Communion Preparation Mass	Anniversaries 4th Anniversary
	Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass		
Monday 23rd March	12.00 Noon	Lee (Laurence) Furlong, The Bullawn William (Bill) English, Mount Elliott	Months Mind & Birthday Remembrance Months Mind
	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.	
Tuesday 24th March	10.00am	Thomas Jefford, Town Wall	Anniversary
	8.00am	Moylan & O'Sullivan families, St. Mullins	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Ned Cash Junior, Hospital Road	5th Anniversary
Adoration takes place after 10.00am Mass until 8.00pm			
Wednesday 25th March	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish & Parish Mass Association. Oliver Caulfield, Priesthaggard, Campile	Remembrance Anniversary
	Monthly Parish Coffee Morning in the Sacristy after 10.00am Mass		
Thursday 26th March	8.00am	Kitty Foley, Cross Street & deceased family members of the Foley & Brennan families, New Ross & Castlecomer, Kilkenny	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Ned Cash Senior, Hospital Road	Anniversary
	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious Life in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Friday 27th March	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Ted St. Ledger, Bewley Street	Anniversary
	7.00pm	Lenten Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 28th March	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	5.00pm	Mary Power (nee Caulfield), Harvey Place & Waterford City	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 29th March	8.00am	Billy & Josie Long & their children, Limerick	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Josephine Moore, Henry Street Andy Foran, Pondfields	Anniversary Anniversary
	Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass		
	12.00 Noon		

### 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 a 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):**  
Bea Walsh, Irishtown - Anniversary

**Altar (Centre):**  
Johnny Mullett, Mount Carmel - Anniversary

**St. Joseph's (Right):**  
John Margaret & Lily Dunphy, Irishtown - Remembrance

**Blessed Sacrament Chapel:**  
Oliver Caulfield, Priesthaggard - Remembrance

### Eucharistic Ministers

**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.

### CATHOLIC SUNDAY School

Sunday's during 10:00am Mass

BOOK A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD / GRANDCHILD  
CALL THE PARISH OFFICE ON 051 421348

### History Notes - Part 115: THE JESUIT SCHOOL IN NEW ROSS

The Jesuit Order was present in town during the 1600s. Fr. Stephen Gelosse, S.J., together with a colleague opened a school for 120 boys (including 35 boarders - 18 Catholics and 17 Protestants) in 1660. The Jesuits had gained the use of St. Michael's Church, and the school was behind the Church in Barrack Lane. Gelosse taught students to perform moral and religious drama for public audiences in the manner in use in Belgian schools, where he was trained. These performances, held in the chief square of the town, drew large audiences from both Catholic and Protestant communities from far and wide. Catholic religious practice was scarcely tolerated at the time, and the Jesuits were periodically threatened but managed to maintain the school through the support of liberal Protestants in town. However, in 1670 protestant interests added pressure on the authorities and in 1676 the Jesuits were forced to leave town. The Jesuit Order in New Ross had been well supported by Bishop Luke Waddinge of Ferns who was parish priest of New Ross in those years. The school was tolerated in its early days as non-denominational. It was a high-grade classical establishment, scarcely touching the common folk. It appears that Gelosse accepted the status in the hope of gradually making the school Catholic. However, after the closing in 1676 came the merciless severity of the Penal Laws which ended Catholic schooling for a long period.

Courtesy of Jim Sutton

### In Remembrance

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**  
We remember & pray of the souls of - Vera Flood (nee Brooks), The Rower & New Ross, Aidan Power, Cluain Fada, New Ross & Woodstown, Waterford, Pat Donnelly, Mount Carmel, New Ross who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:**  
We remember & pray for the souls of - Colin Barrett, Athlone, Owenie Furlong, Ballyrue Lower, Margaret & John Rigley, Southknock, Eddie Larkin, Mary Street, Pat & Cathy Dillon, Barretts Park, Liz & Walter Dunne & the Cosgrave Family, The Maudlins & Miceál Kavanagh, Mount Garrett (4th Anniversary) 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: Riadh Kinsella, Brooklawn, Roisin Lakes, Bewley Street & Evie & Charlie Hanly, Lacken Valley, 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

**Wednesday 25th March 2026:** Monthly Parish Coffee Morning in the Sacristy after 10.00am Mass. All Welcome.

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

**Sunday 29th March 2026:** Palm Sunday, Summertime begins clocks go forward an hour.

**Monday 30th March 2026:** Penitential Service @ 7.00pm.

**Tuesday 31st March 2026:** Annual Chrism Mass in St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy.

## Our Future Church

The Diocese of Ferns is fundraising for 'Our Future Church' to inspire faith and build hope in our parish communities.

This will continue to train lay people for ministry and mission - to guide children and families as they prepare for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation - to offer prayer services - and to support families and loved ones in times of illness and bereavement.

There are envelopes for donations within the church and you can also give online at ferns.ie  
Please join us in this vital mission to sustain parish life and build 'Our Future Church'.

The main weekend for collection is the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. Thank you.

## Mass of Chrism

Tuesday March 31st 2026  
St Aidan's Cathedral,  
Enniscorthy  
7.30 pm

You are kindly asked to be seated by 7.00 pm  
Seating will be allocated on a first come basis.

All Welcome

### 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