

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen. The Lord be with you. **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

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 17: 3 - 7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 94:1-2.6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **[R]**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;

let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **[R]**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **[R]**

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-2.5-8
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the Saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL John 4: 5-15.19 - 26. 39 - 42
(Shorter Form Only)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans.

Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this

well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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.



focus on sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 8th March 2026 Year A

There is a thirst for the love, joy and meaning of the gospel in the hearts of our people today. It is sometimes ignored in the rush of modern consumerism. The readings today invite us to bring that deep thirst for life to Jesus and his gospel.

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

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. 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.**

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

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

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

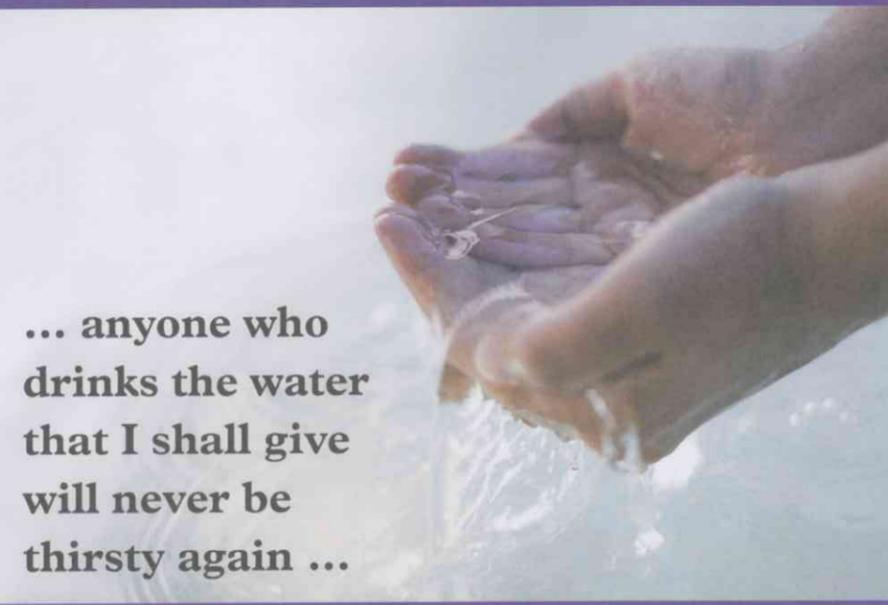
As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfil the whole of your commands. 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.**



... anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again ...



Partners in mission

The lengthy dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is one of the most intriguing encounters of the Gospels. They develop a rapport, discussing "living water", the differences between their religious customs, and the promise of the Messiah. Jesus makes a request of her before he offers her anything, implying a level of equality; the woman is an active rather than passive participant in his ministry. Several times in the Gospels, he transcends expectations about traditional women's roles. As they talk, the woman moves from calling Jesus "a Jew", to addressing him as "Sir", then recognising him as a "prophet" and finally announcing him to others as "Messiah". As their connection deepens, she grows in understanding, and her testimony is authentic and convincing. Soon, others are drawn to him. The encounter breaks religious and social taboos, but Jesus casually engages the woman in conversation as if it's the most natural thing in the world. He recognises her as an individual with a life story and a context of her own. There is intimacy in this encounter. She is deeply affected by his openness and his teaching and becomes a crucial witness. Jesus uses the metaphor of the harvest to indicate his mission that includes the Samaritans. The time for the harvest has come, he tells the disciples, and this woman represents that movement outwards. What is beautiful about today's Gospel is the way Jesus goes about winning hearts: meeting this woman where she is, transcending boundaries, listening and allowing space for questions and debate. It's a more gentle model for Lent than we might be used to. Set aside some time this week to re-read this passage. Try to place yourself in the shoes of the woman as she talks with Jesus. Trace the stages she goes through, from surprise to belief to excitement. Can you identify with these stages in your own faith journey?

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

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 | Visit us on Facebook/New Ross Parish

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 | Remarks |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Saturday 7th March | 5.00pm | Thomas Dwyer, Mount Carmel & his wife; Hannah | 1st Anniversary & Remembrance |
| | 7.00pm | Polish Community Mass | |
| Sunday 8th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 8.00am | Andrew Murphy, Terrerath | Recently Deceased |
| | 10.00am | Peter, Marian & Breda Maher, Knockmullen Brini Dolan, Riverview & Ann Doyle, Dublin | Anniversaries |
| | Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass | | |
| Monday 9th March | 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 | Mattie & Mollie Crowle, Irishtown | Anniversaries |
| Tuesday 10th March | 8.00am | Margaret & Jack Ryan, Graiguenamanagh, Mary Kehoe, her son; Edward & her daughter; Nellie, The Rower, Kilkenny & Adeline Genovese, Malta | Remembrance |
| | 10.00am | Danny Nolan, Creywell | Anniversary |
| | Adoration takes place after 10.00am Mass until 8.00pm | | |
| Wednesday 11th March | 8.00am | Morning Prayer & Communion Service | |
| | 10.00am | Intentions of the People of the Parish & Parish Mass Association. Margaret Stanley (nee Meyler), Abbey Hall & UK | Remembrance Anniversary |
| Thursday 12th March | 8.00am | Eugene (Gene) Collins, Glasnevin, Dublin | Recently deceased |
| | 10.00am | Peg & Paddy Cleary, Priory Street | Anniversaries |
| Friday 13th March | 8.00am | Morning Prayer & Communion Service | |
| | 10.00am | Pat & Mary Furlong, Stephensland & Redhouse | Anniversaries |
| | 7.00pm | Lenten Stations of the Cross | |
| Saturday 14th March | 8.00am | Morning Prayer & Communion Service | |
| | 5.00pm | Joan Cashin, William Street | Anniversary |
| Sunday 15th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 8.00am | Benny McCabe, Clonroche | Birthday Remembrance |
| | 10.00am | Nancy Martin, Ard Na Greine Daisy (Margaret) Doyle (nee Dignan), Knockmullen & M&J Restaurant, South Street | Remembrance 1st Anniversary |
| Sunday 15th March HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY | Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass | | |
| | 12.00 Noon | James (Jimmy) Caulfield, Nunnery Lane Fr. Odhran Furlong PP VF, New Ross Parish | Months Mind 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): Martin O'Neill, Pondfields
5th Anniversary
Altar (Centre): Special Exam Intentions
St. Joseph's (Right): Peggy Foran, Pondfields
- Recently Deceased
Blessed Sacrament Chapel: Special Intention

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 113: LDF AND LSF STORIES (PART 1 OF 2)
At the beginning of the Second World War in 1939, two local defence organisations were formed in the Republic of Ireland. The Local Defence Force (LDF) was a civilian army support group for the Irish Army and the Local Security Force (LSF) were to provide fire brigade and other local services in the event of an emergency. Young men flocked to these organisations, particularly the LDF, which in later years became the FCA. Uniforms, boots, equipment and rifles were quickly supplied to LDF members. Training was embraced with enthusiasm, and marching, drilling and arms training on the Quay and on Sliabh Coilte Range was popular. The big fear was of a German invasion of England, followed by Ireland but the Irish army forces were being trained to deal with any eventuality. Fortunately, this invasion never occurred, but the War period 1939/1945 was extremely difficult for all of Ireland in many respects.
In later years certain individuals were very proud that they were the first to volunteer in town. Support from the regular army was limited but there was an army camp in Bawnjames above Rosbercon during the War years; this period was known nationally as The Emergency. Army training officers (NCOs) and administration staff and facilities were provided by the Army in co-operation with the local Garda. Plans were made for a local call-to-arms and civilian vehicles were to be requisitioned in an emergency. One local shopkeeper with a large van objected strenuously, so the stated intention was that his van would be the first to be called upon!
Courtesy of Jim Sutton

In Remembrance

RECENTLY DECEASED:
We remember & pray of the souls of - Margaret O'Neill (nee Howlin), Ballinaboola, William (Bill) English, Mountelliott, John Aylward, Rosbercon, Denis Crowe, Mountgarrett, Bridie Winters (nee Stafford), Bosheen Road, Michael Byrne, Campile, who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Pat O'Gorman (23rd Anniversary), Pondfields, Stephen Tubritt (5th Anniversary, Gurteens, Saltmills, Alice Maher, Parkfield, John Byrne (22nd Anniversary), London, UK & Martin O'Neill (5th Anniversary), Pondfields, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Bridget Howlett, Raheen Adamstown & Billy Howlett, Palace East whose birthdays 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.

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

LENTEN SERVICE
Friday 8pm
Good Counsel College
Taizé Prayer

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.

Friday 13th March 2026: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm. Months Mind Mass in Adamstown Parish Church for Fr. Odhran Furlong, PP & VF, New Ross Parish & Adamstown @ 7.30pm. Parish Office will close at 12.30pm.
Sunday 15th March 2026: Fourth Sunday of Lent & Mothers Day. Fr. Odhran Furlong's Months Mind will take place @ 12.00 Noon in the Parish Church.
Monday 16th March 2026: Parish Office is Closed.
Tuesday 17th March 2026: St. Patrick's Day, Bank Holiday. Parish Office Closed. Masses @ 8.00am in Mount Carmel, 10.00am & 12.00 Noon in Parish Church.
Friday 20th March 2026: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm. Parish Office will close @ 12.30pm.
Sunday 22nd March 2026: Fifth Sunday of Lent.
Friday 27th March 2026: Stations of the Cross @ 7.00pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rise & Shine Collection
14 & 15 MARCH
Rise & Shine brings local children and young people with additional needs on a week-long pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes each Easter.
All donations greatly appreciated!

Anam Cara
Supporting Parents After Bereavement
PARENT SUPPORT EVENING
2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
JANUARY - JUNE
7.30PM - 9PM
2026 DATES:
13th January
10th February
10th March
14th April
12th May
9th June
Brandon House Hotel
New Ross, Wexford
Y34 KR62
Bereaved parents please join us
For online meetings and more information contact: info@anamcara.ie
www.anamcara.ie
085 288 8888

NEW ROSS DRAMA FESTIVAL 2026:
This year's festival kicks off on March 18th, running for eight nights to March 27th. We have a great selection of new plays & new groups performing in St. Michael's Theatre over the eight nights. Box office is now open in St. Michael's (051) 421255 with Patrons tickets €60 or €15 nightly (students half price) or call into St. Michael's Theatre to confirm your booking.

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.

New Ross St. Patrick's Day Parade will start at the later time of 2.30pm on Tuesday 17th March.
All floats must be in the Irishtown, Corcoran's pub area for 1.30pm and all walking group must be at the Good Council College for 1.15pm, looking forward to seeing you all there!

New Ross Musical Society presents
ME AND MY GIRL
Director: Derek Shanahan
Choreographer: Anne-Marie Cooney
Musical Director: Jimmy Brockie
Book & Lyrics by L. ARTHUR ROSE & DOUGLAS FURBER
Music by NOEL GAY
Book revised by Stephen Fry. Contributions to revisions by Mike Ockrent
9-14 MARCH 2026
ST. MICHAEL'S THEATRE, NEW ROSS

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. Assisted pilgrims forms can be got from your parish priest. Please contact: Tricia Murphy, Pilgrimage Secretary on 086 323 4551 for more details for helpers or assisted pilgrims. Below is the booking link for general pilgrims. [Pilgrimages to Lourdes | Marian Pilgrimages | Ireland](#)

Congratulation to all the children that received the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend. Thank you to all their parents, teachers, school, parish office staff & all who assisted with their preparations & celebrations.