



focus on sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)
12th April 2026 Year A

Easter for Thomas was a rediscovery of his faith in Jesus.
The risen power of the Lord is the basis for his people's faith.



Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe



Shalom

We do not come through suffering and difficult times unscarred. We are changed by them. Often, they bring some sort of growth into our lives and usually it is not a pleasant experience. The Risen Jesus bears the wounds of his suffering and in today's Gospel invites Thomas to get in touch with this reality. Would it not have made more sense for John to write the wounds out of this story? No, because here we tap into the great mystery of this narrative: we can experience resurrection and still bear the signs of 'wounded-ness'. The cross and new life are deeply intertwined. We can be healed, fully transformed, yet the scars of what has happened remain, almost like a reminder of how far we have come. When we recall times of our own 'wounded-ness' do we also hear Jesus's "peace be with you"? This peace, this Shalom, is more than a wish for a peaceful day. It expresses the desire that the person receiving the blessing might be whole in body, mind and spirit. The Risen Jesus brings a peace that is life-giving.

In difficult times, becoming aware of Christ's presence amongst us can open our hearts, we keep going in confidence that any suffering we are experiencing is not the end of the story. For the disciples this experience moves them from being closed off to the world, to rejoicing, and this in turn opens up the mission for them to be unending witnesses to God's love, to be for others what Jesus has been for them. The Risen Christ is active in all our lives and in the world around us. May we be open to transformation, to growth and to sharing this life-giving Spirit with others.

"For even if the whole world believed in resurrection, little would change until we began to practice it. We can believe in CPR, but people will remain dead until someone breathes new life into them." - Shane Claiborne

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

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. 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.
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

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

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. 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, alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen.
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.....

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

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:42 - 47
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple everyday but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God

and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps117: 2-4.13-15.22-24

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

- Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' [R]
- I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. [R]
- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. [R]

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1: 3 - 9

A reading from the first letter of St. Peter.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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

THE 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



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.

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Visit us on
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Ross Parish

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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 11th April	5.00pm	Martin O'Connor, Bewley Street	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 12th April	8.00am	Anthony Rochford, Parkfield & Dungarvan, Waterford	Birthday Remembrance
	10.00am	William & Margaret Rochford, Old Charleton Hill	Anniversaries
Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass			
Monday 13th April	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.	
Tuesday 14th April	8.00am	William Walsh, An Caislean Maol	12th Anniversary
	10.00am	Catherine Carroll (nee Waters), Anfield Lane & Borris in Ossory	5th Anniversary
Adoration takes place after 10.00am Mass until 8.00pm			
Wednesday 15th April	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish & Parish Mass Association. Jerry Berry, Mountgarrett	Remembrance 1st Anniversary
Thursday 16th April	8.00am	Kathleen T. Kennedy, 'Lisheen', Southknock	Anniversary
	10.00am	Mary & William Connolly, Mary Street	Anniversary
	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Holy Hour for Vocations & Religious life in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel	
Friday 17th April	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Bridie & George Echlin, Mountross	Anniversary
Saturday 18th April	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	5.00pm	Brendan McPhillips, Mac Murrough Island	1st Anniversary
	7.00pm	Polish Community Mass	
Sunday 19th April	8.00am	Michael & Margaret Sutton, Michael Street	Anniversaries
	10.00am	John Gannon, Nunnery Lane Patricia Rowsome, Mount Ross	Anniversary Anniversary
Children's Sunday School in the Sacristy during 10.00am Mass			
2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER	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):
Anthony Rochford, Parkfield & Dungarvan, Waterford - Birthday Remembrance

Altar (Centre):
Special Healing Intentions
St. Joseph's (Right):
Michael Browne (8th Anniversary), Chapel Lane - Remembrance

Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
Daniel, Annie & Jamie Whelan - Remembrance

APRIL 2026

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:
5.00pm - Donal Murphy
10.00am - Brian Teague
12.00 Noon - Bridget Rossiter O'Flynn

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:
5.00pm - Patricia Quinn, Joan Foley & Eddie Rowe
10.00am - Paul Harrington, Martin Connolly, Khanh Phi Tran
12.00 Noon - Rose Ryan & Rita Condon

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

In Remembrance

RECENTLY DECEASED:
We remember & pray of the souls of - Honor Kelly (nee McCallan), Dunbrody Heights & Louise Durcan (nee Donnelly), London, UK, Tramore, Waterford & New Ross who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the souls of - Jerry Berry (1st Anniversary), Mountgarrett, Michael Sutton, Southknock, Robbie Dunphy, Southknock, Mary & William Connolly, Mary Street, Brendan McPhillips, (1st Anniversary) Mac Murrough Island, Frank Harding, William Street & Slieverue, Mary Shannon (4th Anniversary), Henry Street, Bozena Jastrzebska (5th Anniversary) Ballyrue & Mary Ann Kavanagh, Irishtown, Bridie Doran, High Hill, Paddy Murphy, Longstone Drive, New Ross & Ben & Harvey Pressman, St. Mullins & New Ross 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.

History Notes - Part 119:

THE NEW ROSS POOR LAW UNION

The New Ross Poor Law Union was founded in 1840 and the Workhouse was built a year later. The site was a square ten acres in size; its boundary wall, tall and ivy covered but intact, still borders three sides of the site. Our town's two local hospitals, The District Hospital and The New Houghton Hospital now occupy these grounds. The old establishment gave the name Poor House Road to the roadway which ran past it from Three Bullet Gate, now known as Hospital Road. The Workhouse building followed the standard layout, with two main wings linked by a central corridor. The western block housed the administration offices and board room, with school rooms added later. The eastern section housed the main accommodation, both male and female, with the master's quarters. The dining hall and chapel were in the connecting corridor. During the famine period, sheds were erected to cater for the overflow, and a local building served as a temporary facility. A 72-bed fever hospital was built at the rear of the Workhouse with a linking pathway. This Fever Hospital served the southeast area until it was replaced by the present New Houghton Hospital which was built on its footprint. The New Ross Poor House was drawn into the conflicts of the Land Wars of the 1880/1890s and attracted national publicity. An old townsman I knew remembered Arthur Kavanagh of Borris House, born without arms or legs, passing on his horse to board meetings of the local Poor Law Union, accompanied by his groom. And my father as a boy delivered milk to the Union, as it was then known, from the family dairy in the Maudlins.

Courtesy of Jim Sutton

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

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.

ATTENTION PLEASE

St. Carlo Acutis

Official 1ST CLASS (Pericardium) HEART RELIC visit to the Diocese of Ferns

April 19	St Aidan's Cathedral, ENNISCORTHY 7.30pm: Opening Liturgy of Welcome of the Relic
April 20	Church of the Assumption, Bride St, WEXFORD 10.00am: Mass and Talk for Schools 11:00am: Public Veneration & Blessing 12.30pm: Relic leaves Wexford
April 20	St Aidan's Cathedral, ENNISCORTHY 1.30pm: Talk for Schools 2.30pm: Meditated Rosary 3.00pm: Public Veneration & Blessing 5.00pm: Talk followed by Adoration 7.00pm: Celebration of Mass followed by Adoration Night Vigil
April 21	St Mary's & St Michael's Church, NEW ROSS 10.00am: Mass and Talk for Schools 11:00am: Public Veneration & Blessing 12.30pm: Relic leaves New Ross
April 21	St Senan's Church, ENNISCORTHY 1.30pm: Talk for Schools 2.30pm: Public Veneration & Blessing 7.00pm: Celebration of Mass followed by Veneration and Blessing
April 22	St Michael's Church, GOREY 10.00am: Mass and Talk for Schools 11:00am: Public Veneration & Blessing 12.30pm: Relic leaves Gorey

ALL SCHOOLS ESPECIALLY WELCOME!

Scan to watch the incredible life of St. Carlo

The first millenial saint in the Catholic church

Adoration Apostolate Ferns Diocese

* All Talks by Monsignor Anthony Figliaredo & Gwen Wiseman, Diocese of Assisi, Italy

New Certificate in Collaboration & Mission

The Diocese of Ferns invites applications for its new Certificate in Collaboration & Mission, beginning in September 2026. The programme equips participants to work collaboratively through ecclesiology, practical theology and pastoral action, integrating head, heart and hands. Participants will explore the See-Judge-Act method, apply it locally and design and lead a six-month project. The course runs from September 2026 to May 2027 with 20 workshops (2.5 hours each) on evenings and Saturday mornings to suit work and family commitments. Places are limited. Candidates must be nominated by a priest in active ministry, a Pastoral Council Chairperson or a current Diploma in Pastoral Ministry participant. For details and the application form, contact pdw@ferns.ie or see the News section of www.ferns.ie - we also ask for your prayers for this initiative.

Foundation in Collaboration & Mission

Diocese of Ferns - Certificate Course
Discover Collaboration in the Church Today

Course Overview

This programme prepares you to take on collaborative roles in the contemporary Church. You'll examine this time of change, apply the See-Judge-Act method and complete an action project in your own pastoral context. Blending insight (head), reflection (heart), and action (hands), the course draws on Vatican II, synodality and pastoral experiences.

Modules

Head, Heart & Hands: Pastoral Project (8 sessions spread across the course)
Ecclesiology: Models of Church (6 sessions, Semester 1)
Practical Theology: Developing Facilitative Skills (6 sessions, Semester 2)

Certification of Completion awarded by the Diocese of Ferns
20 Sessions, Weekday Evenings or Saturday Mornings (September to May)
For further information please contact: pdw@ferns.ie

Hope and Dream 2026: Bernie and Eugene Cashin are taking part in the 2026 10k hope and dream on the 12th of April if you would like to sponsor them for a worthy cause contact Eugene on 087 930 6354

Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: We kindly ask you to include in your prayers the 28 people currently on our Ferns Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje. May the experience of pilgrimage grow and strengthen the faith and trust of the youth in Jesus the Risen Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Thank you for your prayers!

Diocese of Ferns

Safeguarding Training Sessions 2026

These sessions will provide a basic knowledge of safeguarding best practice in the Catholic Church focusing on:

- what is safeguarding
- why do we safeguard
- how do we safeguard
- who do we safeguard

All volunteers are welcome

- Volunteers who work directly with children and vulnerable adults e.g., altar server supervisors, leaders of children's choirs & children's liturgy groups, sacramental preparation facilitators, eucharistic ministers visiting people's homes, home visitation team members
- Volunteers who carry out all other roles in our parishes e.g., secretaries, sacristans, readers, eucharistic ministers, cleaning teams, flower arrangers, collectors, committee members!

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

Dates & Times - you can choose from one of the following:

- Monday 27th April 2026, Pastoral Centre, Gorey 7-8.30pm
- Thursday 28th May 2026, Talbot Hotel, Wexford, 7-8.30pm
- Wednesday 10th June 2026, Presentation Arts Centre, Enniscorthy, 7-8.30pm
- Tuesday 16th June 2026, Pastoral Centre, New Ross, 7-8.30pm

Free to Attend No Booking Required

For more information, please contact:
Lisa Delaney
053 9174972
safeguarding@ferns.ie

We are looking forward to meeting with everyone!

The Diocese are holding our **Safeguarding Training Sessions** for all volunteers in our parishes once again this year as it has been 3 years since our last big sessions. These are aimed at all volunteers in the parishes. The NBSCCI policy states that this training is a **requirement** for all those who volunteer directly with children or vulnerable adults, for example, altar server supervisors (including sacristans), children's choir leaders, children's liturgy group leaders, mixed choir leaders, sacramental preparation facilitators (if parish based), youth group leaders (if parish based), eucharistic ministers who visit homes/nursing homes & home visitation team members. Please tell these volunteers in your parish that it is mandatory for them to attend. Other volunteers who do not work directly with children or vulnerable adults should also be encouraged to attend. The more people who are aware of safeguarding best practice in the Catholic Church, the safer place it is for our most vulnerable groups.

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.