



The Lord is absent: that was the first experience of Jesus' followers after his death. But even though he has returned to his Father, he is with us. Today's feast is the celebration that he is present both in heaven and on earth.



I am with you always



As is common in Matthew's Gospel, today we find ourselves with Jesus on a mountain ~ an important setting for moments of divine revelation. The eleven male disciples have been instructed by the female disciples, the two Marys, to go to

Galilee to see the risen Jesus. In Matthew's account, the male disciples have not visited the tomb or seen Jesus up to this point. These women, the first witnesses to the resurrection, pass the message on to the men. This 'passing on' is an important theme as it sets the scene for the 'Great Commission', Jesus handing over his mission to the disciples.

When they see Jesus, the group has a typical mixed response: as always, they are an imperfect bunch. Yet Jesus tasks them to "make disciples of all nations". We remember that early in Matthew's Gospel, Galilee was referred to as "Galilee of the Gentiles" (Mt 4:15), so it is fitting that the inclusive mission to all nations begins here. Matthew often thinks in terms of "delegated powers": Jesus has authority to teach - as noted by the crowds (Mt 7:29) - and this authority is now passed on to the disciples. When he first sent the disciples out, he gave them authority over unclean spirits and illnesses (Mt 10:1). Now, the mission is extended outwards - to all nations.

We are the extension of this commissioning. God's kingdom is not limited to a particular place or set of people. Our communities are called to be alive not inside buildings but on the streets, constantly reaching out. Jesus' mission is all-encompassing, infinitely wide, infinitely open. His final message is a promise to us all: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." We might recall here the promise in Jesus' name Emmanuel, 'God with us' (Mt 1:23). The Risen Jesus has not abandoned the world but is in this world, the divine presence in the community, and his followers are sent to carry this love to the world.

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC 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. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. 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.*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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.



He is present both in heaven and on earth.

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.

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 46:2-3, 6-9

R. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast, or Alleluia!

- All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R)
- God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R)
- God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R)

SECOND READING Ephesians 1: 17 - 23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

GREETING

In the name of the Father.... Amen.
The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit*

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** You will come in glory with salvation for your people: 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

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms. Who lives and reigns

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

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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Priest on Duty
051 421214 (24 Hr)



Parish Mobile
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Volume 45 No. 20

Please call into the Sacristy BEFORE Mass to remind the celebrant of the Intention.

Date	Time	Intention	Notes
Sat 16th May	5.00pm	Larry Cash, Hewittsland	1st Anniversary
Sunday 17th May	8.00am	Special Intentions	Special Intentions
	10.00am	Margaret & Tom Howlett, Camblin Derek Butler, Mount Carmel	Anniversaries 3rd Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Goretta Crowdle, Irishtown	Months Mind
Monday 18th May	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	9.30am	Rosary is recited every morning in the Parish Church from Monday to Saturday, however on the 1st Saturday of the month the Novena to Our Lady of Fatima is held @ 9.15am.	
	10.00am	Eddie & Nellie Larkin, Mary Street	Anniversaries
Tuesday 19th May	7.00pm	For the Month of May, each evening Rosary will take place from Monday to Friday at the Grotto in the Irishtown.	
	8.00am	John & Josie Furlong, Wexford	Anniversaries
	10.00am	Paddy & Sarah Power and Paddy Jnr., JKL Place	Anniversaries
Wednesday 20th May	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	People of the Parish & Parish Mass Association Mrs. Annie Mears, William Street	Remembrance Anniversary
	5.30pm	CBS Graduation Service with refreshments in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre afterwards	
Thursday 21st May	8.00am	Michael Foley, Irishtown	Anniversary & Birthday Remembrance
	10.00am	Sheila Roche, Bewley Street	Anniversary
Friday 22nd May	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	10.00am	Aisling Dolan & Nathan Mullet, Stephen's Court	Anniversaries
Saturday 23rd May	8.00am	Morning Prayer & Communion Service	
	5.00pm	Patrick Merrigan, The Bungalow, Cross Street	30th Anniversary
Sunday 24th May	8.00am	Elizabeth Whelan, Irishtown	Anniversary
	10.00am	Mary & Michael Meaney, Nunnery Lane JJ Conway, Cluain Fada	Anniversaries Anniversary
	12.00 Noon	Harriet (Noeleen) O'Loughlin (nee Cullen), New York, USA & Cross Street, her sister; Anna Sheehan and her brothers; Martin & Dick Cullen	Recently Deceased & Remembrance

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):
Anna Mai Merrigan, Parkfield - Birthday Remembrance

Altar (Centre):
John Dalton, Chapel Lane - Anniversary

St. Joseph's (Right):
Special Intentions

Blessed Sacrament Chapel:
May Cashin, Glenmore - Remembrance

MAY 2026 MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm - Margaret Rossiter
10.00am - Claire Nixon
12.00 Noon - Aileen Dunne

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

5.00pm - Marian Dalton, Mary Rowe & Fiona Cullen
10.00am - Maureen Clarkin, Catherine O'Gara & Margaret Campion
12.00 Noon - Roy Murphy & Murray O'Brien

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

In Remembrance

RECENTLY DECEASED:
We remember & pray for the souls of - James Joseph Canning, Southknock & Geraldine Geoghegan (nee Hamilton), Ard Na Greine, Margaret O'Leary (nee Whelan), Irishtown & Helen Deegan (nee McHugh), Parkfield, who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS:
We remember & pray for the soul of - Maureen Dwyer, Kylemore, The Rower, 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.

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

History Notes - Part 124:


AIDAN DOYLE, STAR FULL FORWARD -

Aidan Doyle from Davidstown was star goal-scoring full forward for the famous Wexford Gaelic football team which won four senior All Ireland titles in 1915/1918. Aidan worked all his life with Cherry's Brewery in town. His duties included collecting monies due from pubs throughout the county. Aidan suffered a broken leg when the brewery lorry in which he was travelling crashed near the Horse and Hound premises at Ballinaboola. Despite the trauma of his injuries, Aidan's main concern was for the safety of the money he had collected. In later years after his retirement, Aidan lived in the Irishtown and faithfully attended at the Augustinian Church at the top of High Hill. He routinely carried his four football medals in his pocket and was happy to show them to locals on request. Aidan's four medals were donated to the Augustinian Fathers who had them set in the base of a chalice for use in the church, and I remember seeing the chalice used during the distribution of Holy Communion there. There was local concern for the safety of the chalice after the Augustinian Fathers closed their church, but I am delighted to learn that the chalice was recently donated by the Order to the GAA for display at their national museum at Croke Park.


Courtesy of Jim Sutton

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 NBCCI 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 on Tuesday 16th June @ 7.00pm in St. Michaels Pastoral Centre Y34 N799.** 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.

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.**



For those that have returned their **CHY's Tax Rebate Forms**, thank you. If you still have one please return to the Parish Office.



Wexford Volunteer Centre is hosting a Volunteer and Community Services Expo at the Talbot Hotel on Thursday 21st May 2026 from 1pm until 8pm. This event will be FREE and open to the general public and schools to attend. Come learn about community organisations, local charity groups and activities. Sign up to open volunteer positions and get involved with all across county Wexford, or simply just see what is happening in your local area. Limited (FREE) stands are available at this event where you can showcase your charity, community organisation or services. Contact info@volunteerwexford.ie or 053 900 6639 to apply.




Flames of Hope invite to a day of retreat. **SATURDAY MAY 23rd, VIGIL OF PENTECOST.** VENUE: Parable Garden Ballinesker. TIME: 10.30am - 4.00pm. PRESENTER: TOM GUNNING. COST: €20 (Subsidised by Flames of Hope). Tea and Coffee available and we bring our own lunch To book: ring 0874475434 before April 30th - (Fifteen places available)

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.

WILLIAM MARSHAL: 1147-1219.....

Courtesy of Seamus Kiely


WILLIAM MARSHAL Most famous people in history both men and women after a period are generally forgotten, except for very few. William Marshal would also have been forgotten. But nearly six and a half centuries later, 642 years after William Marshal's death in 1219, Peter Meyler walked into Sotheby's Auction House in London Wednesday 6th February 1861. Peter discovered the sole surviving copy of the Thirteenth (13th) century Biography "The History of William Marshal" which was published 1226 (7 years after his death). The discovery brought the famous exploits of the world's greatest Knight "William Marshal" to a whole new audience. This was a thrilling, intimate portrait of one of history's most illustrious Knights and a remarkable man, the birth of the knightly class to which he belonged, the forging of the English and Irish nations. He promoted the rule of law and shaped history. So, the man that founded the town of New Ross, County Wexford in 1207 along with his wife Princess Isabel de Clare also built St. Mary's Church, the first bridge over the River Barrow, The Hook Lighthouse, Bintern Abbey, Duiske Abbey, Carlow Castle, Kilkenny Castle and numerous other structures. As a great historical medieval figure, we should continue to remember William Marshal who contributed so much of the Southeast of Ireland. He had the Hook Lighthouse built over 800 years ago and is the oldest working lighthouse in the world and still stands tall helping ships to safely sail our Southeast coast for over eight centuries. Of all the historical figures that came to Ireland, William Marshal left an indelible footprint on the whole of the Southeast of Ireland. A proud tribute to William Marshal, to this day.



Changing Gears is an in person course, which supports people in dealing with transitions or significant life-challenges (retirement, bereavement, job-loss, ill health, becoming a carer, relationship breakdown) in mid to later life. Its aim is to help participants to identify what has served them well thus far in life, the successes and challenges they have experienced, what supports they have in their lives and what they may need to put in place, and/or discard, for the next stage of life. It usually takes place over five weeks and is a facilitated group experience that uses a blend of personal reflection, worksheets, and small group sharing, in a safe environment. Flyer attached with further information.

Venue: Whites of Wexford, Abbey Street, Wexford Y35 C5PF
Dates: Wednesdays 20, 27 May and 3, 10 and 17 June 2026
Times: 11.00 to 13.30 (which includes a comfort break with tea and coffee). **Please note that this course has been funded by the HSE and is free of charge. Participation requires attendance at each of the five sessions.**

There will be a one day coach trip to Knock Shrine on Sunday July 5th for the Ferns Diocesan Day. Pick-up Points: Wellingtonbridge, Campile & New Ross. Fare € 88 including two meals contact details Nicholas Bowe phone 087 9418661.



Bishop Ger is inviting the **Confirmation Candidates 2026** to accompany him in a celebration of their entry through reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation into full membership of their Catholic Faith in **St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, on Saturday, 23rd of May [Pentecost] at 6pm Mass.** He would like each Confirmation class to be represented by a child /children who have been Confirmed this year, together with members of their families.



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