

OCTOBER 2018

**NEW ROSS, FETHARD-ON-SEA UNION**

**Minister-in-Charge:** Rev'd Ivan Dungan

**Parish Office:** 051-422281/ 086-3681485

**Reader Emerita:** Mrs Joan Deacon

**Website:** [www.newross.ferns.anglican.org](http://www.newross.ferns.anglican.org)

**Safeguarding Trust Panel:** We are a parish union committed to upholding good practice in our ministry with children and young people. Our panel, in the event of any concern, is made up of

Ms. Olive Power	087- 907 6671
Ms. Suzanne Barrett	087- 228 7535
Rev'd Ivan Dungan (DLP)	086-368 1485

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**DIARY for OCTOBER 2018**

**Oct 7<sup>th</sup>** Our service of the Word today will feature the *a capella* women's choir from Wexford, 'Credo'. They will sing some arias during the service. Presiding at the service will be the Rev Richard Greene.

**Oct 15<sup>th</sup>** The Diocesan Mothers' Union will hold their Area Meeting in St Mary's Church at 8.00pm.

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup>** Harvest Thanksgiving in Fethard at 8.00pm. Guest speaker, Rev Ian Cruickshank.

**Oct 21<sup>st</sup>** Harvest Thanksgiving in New Ross at 8.00pm. Guest speaker, Rev David Compton.  
**Please note there won't be a morning service in new Ross that morning.**

**Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>** Select Vestry meeting in St Mary's new Ross at 8.00pm.

**Oct 26<sup>th</sup>** Colcannon Supper in aid of St Mogue's Church in Colclough Hall, Saltmills at 8.00pm.

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Autumn, like the school year, begins parish activity again. I hope you all had a pleasant summer. Indeed, June and July were as we always like summer to be, warm and sunny with plenty of beach days. I noticed all the extra activity in Fethard village, what with playful children anticipating fun in the sea and grownups stocking up in the shop for an afternoon on the beach, it was isometimes difficult to manoeuvre your car!

But time moves on and the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' is here. We can anticipate Harvest Thanksgiving, a special Remembrance Day, when Armistice, the end of WW1 falls on Sunday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be many ceremonies celebrating this event, not least, here in New Ross. Then Advent is hot on its heels and before we know it, Christmas!

There's no doubt we all like the cycle of the year, and its milestones month by month, and often this attitude can creep into our life of faith too. This is something of which we should be vigilant, because, although God does not change, not his revealed truth, nevertheless he is always doing a 'new thing'. The last words of a dying church are, "We always did it this way". It's obvious that people now are not very interested in organised church, especially in Ireland, where 'church' has turned folk off God to a large extent. Congregations, if they are missional, will seek God and do new things or they will dwindle 'til the last parishoner dies and the church door closed for the last time. I don't think anyone wants that scenario, but doing things as 'we always did' will ensure that that happens!

It's a bleak picture I draw, but it isn't inevitable. The Gospel of our Saviour is as relevant to AD 2018 as it was to AD 1. It's life, and people are looking for life. They need to see it, in Christian people, in congregations, in everyday church life. They need to see Jesus! Let's show them him, the pearl of great price.

*Ivan Dungan, Minister*