



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns Church €1,732.25
Ballyduff Church €

If you wish, you may use **365 Banking** and transfer your contribution periodically to the parish account, please put your Sunday Envelope number on your donation or name.

Ferns Church No. 1 A/ C.

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE16 BOFI 9065 6678 0456 47

Ballyduff Church

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE32 BOFI 9066 0382 1179 14

Clogogue Church

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE85 BOFI 9065 8260 5960 10

SVP St Aidan's Conference Ferns

Whatever your reason for getting in touch, if you need support from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul we are here to help you. There are a wide range of supports we can offer you, from practical help and advice, to a friendly ear all in the strictest of confidence.

Web: www.svp.ie/requesthelp

Email: StAidan.Ferns@svp.ie

Phone: 086 721 9303

Advent Season

St. John The Baptist who came to prepare the way for Jesus had a very simple message "Repent & Believe". Let us listen to him and use this season to change our non Christ-like ways and improve.

ST. AIDAN'S PARISH INFORMATION

Very Rev Paddy Cushen. P.P. Tel: 053-9366152 / Mobile: 087 2387559.

E-mail: frpaddycushen@gmail.com **Eir Code: Y21 N9 W7**

Rev Ricky O'Connor. C.C. Tel: 085 7662706

E-mail: revrickyferns@outlook.com **Eircode: Y21 K1 C0**

Parish Office: Tel: 053-9366514. E-mail: fernsparish@gmail.com **Eir Code: Y21 X5 W9**

Weekend Mass Times: Vigil Mass, Saturday 6.30pm Sunday 8.30am & 11.00am

Weekday Mass Times: Monday to Saturday day 9.30am.

Convent: (Wednesday 7.00pm- not at present due to Covid 19) (Now Mon-Fri 9.00a.m.)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 8.00a.m. - 10.00p.m. (www.fernsadoration.com)

Confessions: Every **Saturday** after **9.30am** Mass & First **Thursday** after **9.30am** Mass and on request.

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, BALLYDUFF

Weekend Mass Times: Vigil Mass, Saturday 7.30pm Sunday 9.30am **Eircode: Y21 FD 73**

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, CLOGOGUE

Weekend Mass Time: Sunday 10.15am

Eir Code: Y21 CD 96

Reconciliation Services: Lent and Advent. **Baptism:** By appointment.

Marriage: At least three months notice must be given.

Ferns St. Vincent de Paul: Tel: 086 7219303

Safeguarding Officers: Denis Kinsella 087 2465720, Bernidina Roche 086 0786100
Ballyduff: Alan Byrne 086 8135149. Clogogue: Mary Skelton 087 6984703

St. Aidan's Church, Ferns

Has a live Webcam Streaming for all Masses. The camera is focused on the Altar & Sanctuary. You can watch Mass & Services live from St. Aidan's Church by going to YouTube and searching for Ferns Church or on Facebook at Ferns Church Live or on our Parish Website www.fernsparish.ie



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 16. No. 16

12th & 13th December 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent B

The Deep End....A bearer of light

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again but this time from the fourth Gospel. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth Gospel and in its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light bearer, he is not *the* light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out. We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete which means 'rejoice'. We light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. As our world continues to battle this pandemic, there is much fear about. People might not feel like celebrating or being joyful. But nature shows us that Spring always follows Winter. Like John, we are called to be light-bearers. To carry Christ's love and light to those we meet in our daily lives. Our world needs light-bearers, especially in these Winter months. It might be a good opportunity to ask today 'Who have been the light bearers for me in these past months?' And also, 'To whom can I carry light to this week?' In this way we observe Christ's ongoing incarnation in the world today.

'Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.'

Michel de Verteuil

Reflection for weekend 12th & 13th Dec. 2020

Fratelli Tuti, Pope Francis

Chapter 3 – Envisaging and Engendering an Open World

Pope Francis goes on to say that the social, loving dimension of human life is universal, natural, and essential. Love both draws us out of ourselves and draws the ones we love into ourselves. True love also "impels us towards universal communion... By its very nature, love calls for growth in openness and the ability to accept others as part of a continuing adventure that makes every periphery converge in a greater sense of mutual belonging" (95). This movement toward solidarity does not eliminate differences, but celebrates the beauty of diversity.

Mass Time & Intentions

This Weekend

12th & 13th December 2020

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Aidan & Anna-Mai Nolan & their son Roy, Clody.

Kevin & Kathleen Rochford & Elizabeth Ivory, Pairc Mhuire.

8.30am: ~~~

11.00am Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick and Jim & Ellen Nolan, Kiltown.

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

Sat. 7.30pm: ~~~

Sun. 9.30am: ~~~

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

SUNDAY 10.15am: Nell & John Kennedy, Clologue and John Burke, Bolacreean.

Mass Time & Intentions

Next Weekend

19th & 20th December 2020

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Kevin & Mary Quigley, Pairc Mhuire. Jim Brooks, Ballyboy.

8.30am: Min Quigley, Effernogue and deceased family members and Jim Noctor Effernogue.

11.00am: Michael & Nancy O'Toole, Corah and their daughter Marie.

Theresa Hawkins, Bunclody Rd, Ferns.

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

Sat. 7.30pm: ~~~

Sun 9.30am: ~~~

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

SUNDAY 10.15am: ~~~

Convent Chapel

The Convent Chapel will remain open each day from 8.00a.m.-10.00p.m. for Adoration and private prayer.

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

V. Rev. Patrick Cushen P.P.
053 93 66152/087 238 7559

12th & 13th December 2020

Ministers of the Word

6.30pm: Mary O'Brien

8.30am: Maureen Kavanagh

11.00am: Angela Swaine

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.30pm: Maire Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr Cecelia

11.00am: Angela Swaine & Mary Sinnott

Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers 2021 ROTA

Are now available for collection from the Parish Office or Sacristy. Thank you all for your contribution to the Church in 2019 it is very much appreciated.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our community of faith

*Ada Mairéad Plummer,
Oisín Joseph Whelan &
Ruby Mai Bolger-O'Connor*
were baptised recently.

St. Martin Magazine

Subscription of €13.20 now due. Anyone interested please contact Rita Plummer on 0877738966.

Ferns Parish Shop

Stockist of Mass Cards, Mass Bouquets and a selection of cards for any occasion. We also stock a range of gifts including Statues, Rosary Beads, Holy Pictures, Holy Medals & Baptism gifts. 2020 Calendars and Christmas Gifts, Advent Calendars, Christmas Mass Bouquets, Boxed Christmas Cards and Candles now in stock. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Parish Newsletters

They are available at Day Break, Centra and from all Churches which are open daily for private prayer.

Christmas Mass arrangements

Ferns Church

Vigil 5.00p.m., 6.30p.m. & 8.00p.m. Day Mass 8.30a.m., 9.30a.m. & 11.00a.m.

Ballyduff and Clologue Churches

Both Churches: Vigil 6.30p.m. & 8.00p.m. Day Mass 9.30a.m. & 10.30a.m.

Confessions in Ferns Church (Social Distancing)

Christmas week each day 10.00a.m. and 7.30p.m.

We are providing extra Masses to help people. In order to make sure that there is a good spread out of people tickets will be distributed to attendees.

You can book at the Sacristy of each Church or the Parish Office.

There is not an obligation to attend, you can join on live stream from Ferns.

Consult back page website www.FernsParish.ie or Mass on R.T.E.

Mission Envelope Appeal

From Ferns area envelopes returned so far we have **€1,350.00.**

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

NOTICE TO ENVELOPE DISTRIBUTORS

The Christmas Dues envelopes are now available for distribution for all areas.

The weekly envelopes for Ballyduff & Clologue for 2021 are also available for distribution. Many thanks.

Gaudete Sunday

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. On the 4th Sunday we will light the final purple reminding us it is our last opportunity to repent of our sins.

Parish Office

Is now back open from 9am-1pm & 2pm-4pm, Monday to Friday.

In the shop there are lovely Christmas items. Come and visit. All welcome.

Teach na bPaisti Community Preschool Aldercourt, Ferns

We are now taking enrolments for our ECCE Room and Toddler Room for January and September 2021 (Places Limited). We provide services for children aged from 18 months and are open from 9am to 2pm daily for 48 weeks in the year, supporting your child's development needs in a friendly, inclusive and safe environment. Please phone Annette on 087 7538721 or email: teachnabpaisti@gmail.com

Irish Catholic

Money is now due for the Irish Catholic. The Irish Catholic is €104.00 for the year.

Please pay as soon as possible into the Parish Office. If paying by cheque please make payable to Ferns Parish Bookstall.

Denby Raffle in aid of Ballyduff Church

Congratulations to Mary Gethings and Áine O'Brien who both won a Denby dinner set. The total raised was €611. Thank you to everyone who contributed.