



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns Church €678.95**

**Ballyduff Church €292.25**

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: BOFII E2D**

**IBAN: IE16 BOFI 9065 6678 0456 47**

**Ballyduff Church**

**BIC: BOFII E2D**

**IBAN: IE32 BOFI 9066 0382 1179 14**

**Clogogue Church**

**BIC: BOFII E2D**

### 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](http://www.svp.ie/requesthelp)

Email: [StAidan.Ferns@svp.ie](mailto:StAidan.Ferns@svp.ie)

### 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](mailto:frpaddycushen@gmail.com) **Eir Code: Y21 N9 W7**

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

E-mail: [revrickyfern@soutlook.com](mailto:revrickyfern@soutlook.com) **Eircode: Y21 K1 C0**

**Parish Office:** Tel: 053-9366514. E-mail: [fernsparish@gmail.com](mailto: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.fernسادoration.com](http://www.fernسادoration.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](http://www.fernsparish.ie)



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 16. No. 17

19th & 20th December 2020

4th Sunday of Advent B

## The Deep End....Keep awake

The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a 'shocking' way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. It is here Jesus comes. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times.

On the first Sunday of Advent we were invited to 'Keep Awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God present this Advent? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again?

*'Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh – this time, within me – as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago.'*

Edward Hays

## Reflection for weekend 19th & 20th Dec. 2020

### Fratelli Tutti..Pope Francis (Chapter 4 – A Heart Open to the Whole World)

In concrete terms, the Holy Father points to the plight of immigrants in today's world as an opportunity to better care for our brothers and sisters. The topic of borders and their limitations is a recurring theme throughout the encyclical, and it is directly addressed in this chapter. Pope Francis writes that since migration is an international concern, an international response is needed. Furthermore, rather than seeing migration as cause for fear or turmoil, we ought to welcome the fruitful exchange that migrants bring to a community and the opportunities for caring for strangers. The pope recognizes a tension between globalization and localization, but sees a way of healthily living rooted in one's own culture while striving for the common good of the whole of humanity. "Each particular group becomes part of the fabric of universal communion and there discovers its own beauty. All individuals, whatever their origin, know that they are part of the greater human family, without which they will not be able to understand themselves fully" (149).

**Let us be a Christmas gift to others:** The greatest gift we can give to those we love, is to have faith in them, believe in their dreams, and try to help them realize them. We need to believe in the dreams of our husband, wife, children, parents, heroes, leaders and friends, then try our best to help them realize those dreams.

**Mass Time & Intentions  
This 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, Buncloody Rd, Ferns.

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**Sat. 7.30pm:** ~~~

**Sun 9.30am:** ~~~

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**SUNDAY 10.15am:** ~~~

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend**

**26th & 27th December 2020**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:** ~~~

**8.30am:** ~~~

**11.00am:** ~~~

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**Sat. 7.30pm:** John P. Hayden, Ballybeg.

**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.

**Parish Newsletters**

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

**THE PRIEST ON DUTY**

**Rev. Ricky O'Connor C.C.**

**085 7662706**

**26th & 27th December 2020**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.30pm:** Ena Gray

**8.30am:** Theresa Nolan

**11.00am:** Eleanor Hawkins

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.30pm:** Ann Bernie & Brid Breen

**8.30am:** Eileen Brickley & Sr Cecelia

**11.00am:** Liz Villar & Patricia Keenan

**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

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our  
community of faith

**Ferns Parish Shop**

*Stockist of Mass Cards, Mass*

*Bouquets and a selection of cards for any  
occasion. We also stock a range of gifts in-  
cluding Statues, Rosary Beads, Holy Pictures,  
Holy Medals &*

*Baptism gifts. 2020 Calendars and Christmas  
Gifts, Advent Calendars, Christmas Mass  
Bouquets, Boxed Christmas Cards and Can-  
dles now in stock. Your support would be  
greatly appreciated.*

**Mission Envelope Appeal**

From Ferns area envelopes returned so far we  
have **€1,410.00**. The  
collection this year was up by €210.00 on last  
year even with no public collection. Well  
done all.

Your generosity is greatly valued and appreci-  
ated. Many thanks to all.

**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 Cloogue 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.**

**Advent Prayer**

O Jesus, living in Mary  
Come and live in us  
In the spirit of your sanctity  
In the fullness of your strength  
In the reality of your virtues  
In the perfection of your ways  
In the communion of your mysteries.  
Be, Lord, over every opposing power.  
In your own spirit to the glory of the



**Parish Office**

Is now back open from 9am-1pm &  
2pm-4pm, Monday to Friday.  
It will close for Christmas from **Wednesday  
12 noon.**

**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.

**St. Martin Magazine**

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

**Please be ever careful in your contacts and  
recite the Prayer opposite daily.**

**A PRAYER IN THE TIME OF THE  
CORONAVIRUS**

**By Fr. Brian Grogan S.J.**

Dear God, in 1879 the Apparition  
at Knock gave hope and courage to the people  
of Ireland in difficult times.

We ask that Our Lady may now protect your  
beloved people from the Corona Virus. May  
its victims be strengthened by the spiritual  
support of the Christian  
community and restored soon to full health.  
We also pray for the medical personnel who  
deal with the virus.

This we ask in confidence through Christ Our  
Lord. Amen.

*Our Lady of Knock, pray for us.*

*St. Joseph, pray for us.*

*St. John the Evangelist, pray for us.*

*St. Patrick, pray for us.*

*St. Brigid, pray for us.*

*St. Aidan, Pray for us.*

*St.. Corona, pray for us. Amen.*