



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns Church €395.00

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: 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

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: revrickyfern@soutlook.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.fernssadoration.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. 15

5th & 6th December 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent B

The Beginning of the Good News

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely and spent a lot of time in the desert, '*the voice of one crying out in the wilderness*'. Yet it seems he was very popular with '*all the people of Jerusalem*' went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration. In John the Baptist's time, the people lived under the oppression of the Roman Empire and were waiting for someone who would liberate them. John points to one that is greater than he, he points the people to Jesus.

When Pope Francis released the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* in October this year he noted that dark clouds hang over our world and he urged everyone to embrace a spirit of friendship, kindness, compassion and solidarity as we move forward, to help ensure the dignity of every person and a more sustainable world for all. We have certainly experienced a type of *wilderness* this year as we continue to battle the effects of COVID19 and find a way forward. Our communities need messengers, like John, who bring good news, hope and a vision for the future, who point us towards a new way forward.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives once more, let's make the most of this advent time, the most of this waiting time. May we use this space to reflect on what type of world can be born out of this wilderness we find ourselves in. May we reach out to those who are crying out for hope during these difficult months, like John the Baptist, offering a positive vision for the future.

THE HOOK OF FAITH

On this Second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel features John the Baptist who reminds us that our baptism is not just a once off but a daily baptism in the Holy Spirit. Fr Jim Butler offers the homily and another on the feast day of Mary's Immaculate Conception on Tuesday 8th December. We also include a reflection of the meaning of this feast today. We highlight the disturbing findings of another report on abortion in Ireland and a challenging interview with Ryan Bomberger – an American citizen who questions whether we are really all equal. There is the weekly newsletter insert and an article that marks the 175th anniversary of the Great Famine in Ireland. Finally we explore Advent liturgies and customs from our faith Tradition. Check out these and other resources available at www.thehookoffaith.com

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

5th & 6th December 2020

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Paddy Doyle, The Square and his Grandson Barry O'Malley.
John Bolger, Carnew Rd.

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mick & Betty Byrne, Coolbawn and Paddy Byrne, Greenhall, Effernogue and Maurice Long, Tincurry (Months Mind)

Mon 9.30am: Tom Turner & deceased family members.

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

Sat. 7.30pm: Jack Kehoe, Clonee, Camolin & formally of Oylegate.

Sun 9.30am: ~~~

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

SUNDAY 10.15am: ~~~

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

12th & 13th December 2020

FERNS CHURCH

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

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

Rev. Ricky O'Connor C.C.

085 7662706

12th & 13th December 2020

Ministers of the Word

6.30pm: Brendan Kenny

8.30am: Denis Kinsella

11.00am: Frances O'Toole

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.30pm: Margaret Maguire & Michael Bernie

8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia

11.00am: Ann Swaine & Liz Villar

**Feast of The Immaculate
Conception Mass Times
Holy Day of Obligation
8th December**

Ferns: Monday 7th Vigil at 6.30pm
& Tues. 8th at 9.30am

Ballyduff: Mon. 7th Vigil at 7.30pm

Clologue: Tuesday 8th at 9.30am

**St. Vincent de Paul Society
The Annual Christmas
Collection will take place
next weekend 12th & 13th Dec.
at all Churches.**

We once again appeal to your unbounded generosity towards the needy of our area.

Ferns SVP: Tel: 086 7219303

Helpline 086-7219303.

Please do not hesitate to contact if in need of assistance.

Marriage

Congratulations to

Mark Kirwan & Sinead O'Dowd

who were married recently. We wish them every blessing of health and happiness in their future.

**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.

Mission Envelope Appeal

From Ferns area envelopes returned so far we have **€1,283.00.**

Please if possible help and support this most worthy cause in these pandemic times. Your generosity will make a huge difference to all working on the Missions.

Parish Newsletters

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

Ferns Favourites Cook Book

A collection of baking recipes is on sale in aid of St. Edan's Cathedral, On sale in Ferns Parish Office. €10.

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.

Christmas Cards & Crib

There are religious items on sale for Christmas if anyone wishes to buy them. We are available if you wish to call to the Sacristy or call the emergency number.

Ferns Bowling

Had a great year. I would like to thank everyone who had anything to do with the Bowling. I would like to wish them all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I would like to thank Pat Nolan, our Chairman, John Francis our Treasurer, Sean O'Brien, our Secretary, Charlie Christopher, PRO, Committee: Liam Dynan, Philip Keane, John McLean, Joe Murphy, Brendan Kenny, Bridie Kirwan, Ray Fick, Jean Speller, Nancy Hanlon, Fred Warren, Geraldine O'Brien, Joe Ronan, Nick Ronan, Steve Earle, Sam Brickley, Dan Kennedy and Nancy Fortune.

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to Sr. Eileen on the death of her aunt Patricia McKay R.I.P
May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and may God in his mercy console the bereaved.

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.

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. We would be grateful if all distributors would collect them at their convenience. Many thanks for your continued help.

**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

Ferns GAA Lotto

Lotto Draw: Tuesday 1st Dec 2020

Jackpot Numbers: 6, 12, 23, 31

Winner: No Winner

Fern Lucky Dips

1. Dora Kinsella, 2. Marie Redmond,

3. Pat & Martina Kinsella, 4. Louise Dagg

Next draw: Tuesday 15th December

Jackpot: €10,500

Location: Kilrush/Askamore Club Grounds 10pm

Convent Chapel

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