



Sunday Envelope Collection
 The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€66.00**
 The amount received for
Ballyduff was **€303.00**
 The amount received from **Clogogue** for
 December was **€1312.26**
Thank you for your generosity

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

LOTTO DRAW: Tues 29th December
 2020
 JACKPOT NUMBERS: 9, 12, 13, 20
 WINNER: No Winner
FERNs LUCKY DIPS
 1. Nick Stafford Summerville
 2. Ailish Walsh
 3. Ann Marie Logan
 4. Catherine Stafford, Lodgewood
 NEXT DRAW: Tues 12th Jan 2021
 JACKPOT: €11,100
 LOCATION: Kilrush/Askamore GAA
 Club Grounds at 10pm

The Prophet Micah 6:6-8
"This is what the Lord asks of you:
only this,
That you act justly,
Love tenderly
And walk humbly with your God"

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. 15. No. 21

16th & 17th January 2021

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Come and see

There is a Brazilian proverb used when a visitor is leaving one's home: 'Whoever drinks of this water keeps coming back'. Offering a beverage such as a cup of water or tea to a visitor is a universal gesture of welcome and hospitality. Today we hear how Jesus invites two of his disciples to 'come and see' where he lives. He welcomes them into his home and they stay with him for the rest of the day, undoubtedly eating and drinking and conversing with him. Jesus' invitation is simple, yet intimate. We don't know where he lived or what his living arrangements were, but we know he wanted his friends to spend time with him and get to know him. This precious early time with Jesus must have set his friends up for a lifetime of discipleship. We too are invited to 'come and see', to spend time with the Scriptures and in prayer to get to know Jesus. He welcomes us with open arms.

As we reflect on the inviting love of Jesus, we are also encouraged to extend a warm welcome to others in a spirit of friendship. Pope Francis has often spoken of our responsibility, as individuals, communities and church, to welcome everyone – including those who are homeless or who have been forced to leave their home or country. Our welcome is a response to the Lord's supreme commandment to love the other, the stranger, as ourselves. We all have opportunities to do this in our communities.

'Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.'

Pope Francis

Reflection for weekend 16th Jan & 17th Jan. 2021

Fratelli Tutti :Chapter 6 – (Pope Francis, Dialogue and Friendship in Society)

In this chapter, Pope Francis turns to dialogue and its essential role in creating a new culture of fraternity. Dialogue is a middle path between "selfish indifference" and "violent protest" (198). Society is built on authentic dialogue, which involves respecting the other's viewpoint, but not in a relativistic fashion. Rather, "it must respect the truth of our human dignity and submit to that truth" (207). In envisioning how this might look in a pluralistic society, the pope draws on a favourite image, that of the polyhedron, "whose different sides form a variegated unity, in which 'the whole is greater than the part'" (215). This is lived out in the hard, but joyful, work of encountering those who are different than ourselves. For this we can call on the Holy Spirit for the gift of kindness.

Mass Time & Intentions

This Weekend

16th & 17th January 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Jimmy & Anna Marie Mackey,
Station Road &

Paddy Murray, Pairc Mhuire
Margaret (Peg) Kehoe, Raheen
8.30am: People of The Parish

11.00am: ~~~

Mass Time & Intentions

Next Weekend

23rd & 24th January 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Mary Christopher, Coolbawn 1st
Anniversary & Charlie Christopher,

Coolbawn, Months Mind
Declan Murphy, Ballymorgan
John, Bridget, Sean & Noel O'Neill,
Monasootha
Shay, Girlie & Declan O'Neill,
Monasootha

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Noel Killeen, Pairc Mhuire
Leo Maguire, Clone
Isaac & Mary Connolly & their son
Patrick, Tinahely
Joe Crowley, Tinashrule

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to the Davitt & extended
Davitt Family on the death of Nancy
Dempsey (Nee Davitt), Monamolin &
Annette Connolly, Redmond Street,
Enniscorthy.

To the Conroy & Breen Families on
the death of Paddy Conroy, Gorey
and late of Coolnaleen. R.I.P.

*May the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace and may God
in his mercy console the bereaved.*

COVID-19 Support Line for Older

People

ALONE manage a national support line
and additional supports for older people
who have concerns or are facing difficul-
ties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
Professional staff are available to answer
queries and give advice and reassurance
where necessary. The support line is open
seven days a week, 8am - 8pm by calling
0818 222 024,

Covid 19 Precautions

- 1. Please be most prudent in your behaviour and how you protect yourself and others.**
 - 2. When entering and leaving the Church please sanitise your hands.**
 - 3. Wear masks when in the Church or in places where people gather.**
 - 4. Avoid meeting in groups to celebrate events of any kind.**
 - 5. Wash your hands regularly before leaving and returning home.**
 - 6. Church seats are sanitised regularly, but make sure you sanitise when entering and leaving. You cannot be too careful at this time of the virus.**
 - 7. When receiving Holy Communion always receive on the hand. Do not remove your mask before you approach the Priest/Eucharistic Minister. When Holy Communion is put in your hand step aside take off your mask and consume the Eucharist.**
 - 8. Observe the 2 meter guideline.**
- Please, Please, Observe all the
guidelines given by the HSE.

Parish Information

For Church/Parish/Weekly Newsletter,
etc. please look up
Parish Website www.fernsparish.ie

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

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

THE TABLECLOTH

A Beautiful story . . . makes you understand that things happen for a reason .

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn , arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?"

The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials 'EBG' were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria .

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria

When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

This is a true story submitted by Pastor Rob Reid who says, "God does work in mysterious ways. I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today, to guide you and protect you as you go along your way. His love is always with you. His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares we know He will see us through. "So when the road you're traveling seems difficult at best, just remember I'm here praying and God will do the rest. Pass this on to those you want God to bless and remember to send it back to the one who asked God to bless you first."

When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you need. Take 60 seconds and give this a shot! All you do is simply say the following small prayer for the person who sent this to you Father, God, bless all my friends and family in whatever it is that You know they may be needing this day! May their lives be full of Your peace, prosperity and power as they seek to have a closer relationship with You. Amen.

Then send it on to ten other people, including the one who sent it to you. Within hours ten people have prayed for you and you caused a multitude of people to pray for other people.

Then, sit back and watch the power of God work in your life.

P. S. Ten is good, but more is better. 