

**Sunday Envelope Collection**  
 The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€448.00**  
 The amount received for  
**Ballyduff** was **€200.00**  
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for  
 December was **€**  
**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](http://www.svp.ie/requesthelp)  
 Email: [StAidan.Ferns@svp.ie](mailto:StAidan.Ferns@svp.ie)  
 Phone: 086 721 9303

**Ferns SVP  
 Grateful Thanks**  
 The local branch of the Society would  
 like to thank the people of the parish for  
 their generosity towards the Christmas  
 appeal for help. As to be expected, the  
 amount was down on last year, but was  
 very good considering the Covid 19 Pan-  
 demic. The amount raised from the col-  
 lection was **€2,625.20**  
 The SVP is always willing to give assis-  
 tance to anyone who is in need of sup-  
 port. This has been made possible  
 through the generosity of caring people.  
 To contact the local conference please  
 ring 086 7219303.  
 We are blessed to have generous vol-  
 unteers in the local conference and we  
 are most grateful to them for their great  
 work, towards the needy, on our behalf.

**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.fernssadoration.com](http://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, CLOOGUE**  
**Weekend Mass Time:** Sunday 10.15am  
**Eir Code: Y21 CD 96**  
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**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. Cloogue: 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. 15. No. 23      30th & 31st January 2021      4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Genuine authority**  
 'But man, proud man, Dress'd in a little brief authority,  
 Most ignorant of what he's most assur'd...'  
*Measure for Measure* –William Shakespeare  
 We probably wouldn't have to think too hard to come with examples of people who seem  
 to fit the above description. Puffed up with a sense of their own importance, they are anx-  
 ious to be seen as the expert on everything, in spite of limited knowledge or experience.  
 We tend to criticise politicians and other public figures if we feel they are blind to the  
 struggles of ordinary people. They don't know what it's like, to example, to live on a mini-  
 mum wage, to care for a family member with a disability, or to be at risk of homelessness.  
 On the other hand, it is refreshing when those in power have either faced some of these  
 issues themselves or have made the effort to do some research and really listen to people.  
 We can tell when someone is speaking with genuine authority, care and compassion.  
 In today's gospel, those who listen to Jesus' teaching in the synagogue know there is  
 something different and exciting about him. His teaching is in sharp contrast to the scribes  
 they are used to hearing, and makes a deep impression on them. The difference, as stated  
 twice in this passage, is his authority and it leaves his audience 'astonished'. He does not  
 use his position the way we might use our 'little brief authority' to make ourselves look  
 good. Instead he uses his authority to serve, to love, and to bring mercy and freedom.

**FEAST OF ST. AIDAN**  

 This Saturday 30th January will be the feast of St. Aidan the Patron Saint  
 of our Parish and Diocese. Aidan, was born in Breifne (Cavan) and  
 established his chief Church at Ferns in Ui Cinsealaigh in 598AD and  
 founded many Churches in the area. He was the first Bishop of the Dio-  
 cese of Ferns. Aidan was renowned for his generosity and kindness. He  
 died in the year 626AD.  
**ST. BRIDGET**  
 On Monday 1st February we celebrate St. Bridget's Day. She was renowned for her  
 hospitality, alms giving and care of the sick. She was born in 454 of a wealthy fami-  
 ly. She became a religious and was guided by St. Mel. Others followed her exam-  
 ple and joined her in founding of a Monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bish-  
 op Conleth. She died in 524. She is the Patron Saint of Kildare and  
 Leighlin and secondary Patron of Ireland. Making a St. Brigid's cross is  
 one of the traditional rituals in Ireland to celebrate the beginning of early  
 spring, 1st February. The crosses are made of rushes that are pulled rather  
 than cut. They are hung by the door and in the rafters to protect the  
 house from fire and evil.  


**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend  
30th & 31st January 2021**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:** William Bolger, The Dell,  
Ballycarney.

Mary Ann Dunne, The Harrow.

**8.30am:** Special Intention

**11.00am:** John & Jenny Fowler,  
Baylands.

Pat Hayden, Ballyduff

James & Mary Breen, Milesheogue

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend  
6th & 7th February 2021**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:**

**8.30am:** People of the Parish

**11.00am:** Joan Fortune, Corah

**ALHomecare**

Affordable Live-in Homecare provides live-in carers for the elderly in your area. If you are looking for a live-in carer for your relative, please call Eileen or Tom today on 087 9916791 or 087 7440729. Our website is [www.alhomecare.ie](http://www.alhomecare.ie)

We have been asked to inform you— This is an advertisement which might be of interest to people.

**Our Schools**

It is so strange to still have pupils not back in school. Although, not there, they are still advancing their education on line. We thank our teachers and pupils for coping as best they can in these unusual times. Well done all.

**THE PRIEST ON DUTY**

Rev. Ricky O'Connor C.C.

085 7662706

**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.

It happens once every 823 years....

**This coming February will never come again in your life. Because this year February has 4 Sundays, 4 Mondays, 4 Tuesdays, 4 Wednesdays, 4 Thursdays, 4 Fridays and 4 Saturdays. It happens once every 823 years.**

FEBRUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

**Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

O Mary,  
you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

**Missing you – A prayer for grandparents and grandchildren missing each other**

Lord,  
I am missing their tiny hands in mine  
*I miss their wrinkles and their smile*  
I am missing their visits and our weekly walks  
*I miss their voice and our face to face talks*  
I am missing hearing all about their day  
*I miss them showing me the way*  
I am missing hugs and kisses  
*I miss sharing fun and wishes*  
I am missing tucking them in on sleepovers  
*I miss story time snuggled under the covers*  
I am missing joining our hands in prayer  
*I miss just having them there*  
I am missing seeing them grow  
*I miss them sharing all the things they know*  
I am missing the Rites of passage that have passed  
*I miss being them being with us at Mass*  
I am missing the grand-children's ring on the door bell  
*I miss granny and grandad and hope they are well.*  
I am missing their presence day and night,  
*I miss my grandparents, my guiding light.*  
Please bless my grandchildren,  
and keep them safe and sound.  
*Pease mind granny and grandad until we can have them around. AMEN*

**Feast of The Presentation of the Lord—Candlemas Day**

Tuesday 2nd February will be the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, forty days after his birth. Candles will be blessed on Tuesday during Mass. If anyone would like to have candles blessed please leave them at the Sacristy inside door with your name and they will be blessed and left for collection. Our Parish Church was opened on 2nd February 1975, 46 years ago today.



**Feast of St. Blaise—3rd February**

Throats will be blessed **virtually** at all Masses this weekend and on the actual feast of St. Blaise Wednesday 3rd February