



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€355.00**
The amount received for
Ballyduff was **€**
The amount received for
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

St. Theresa of Avila

"Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing
God alone is permanent."

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, CLOLOGUE

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. Clologue: 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. 20

9th & 10th January 2021

The Baptism of The Lord B

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. We also celebrate the beginning of Christ's public ministry which was to continue for three years. Christ at his Baptism was made known as the Messiah/Saviour. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, listen to him". Through our Baptism we became followers of Christ, members of his family, his witnesses in the world and heirs to the kingdom of heaven. If we serve Him faithfully we will enter his kingdom. He has promised **"The one who bears witness to me before people, I will bear witness to that person before my Father in Heaven."**

Whenever we come to this Church, be it Sunday or a week day we gather as a family, the family of Christ. As we come here we can see various people involved in various ministries - **we might ask** - Am I actively involved? Could I be actively involved? As Jesus said "Be doers of the word, not hearers only", also "The Word of God is something alive and active." We can be active members of Christ's family or we can be just passive and expect others to do all the service needed in our Church. It is peoples involvement in their Church that makes it active. Do consider helping.

As St. Paul in Corinthians said, "There is a variety of gifts, ... and a variety of services to be done." Could you perform some of these services by giving of your time and talents, e.g. Minister of Word or Eucharist, Distributor of Newsletter, Distributing Envelopes in your area, (there are some areas needing distributors, if you could help it would be tremendous), Choir member, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a regular basis in the Convent, Prayer Group, Visiting the Sick, St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Visiting the Sick and Housebound, etc.

Continue to serve others in whatever way you can - Be servants of the servants of God. Many are and are getting tremendous satisfaction from doing so.



BAPTISM

There are three forms of Baptism as taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Water - The usual form which is performed by the Priest in the Church.

Blood - When someone suffers Martyrdom because of the intention to be baptised.

Desire - Parents have the desire to have their child baptised but the baby dies before the Church ceremony takes place.



**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

9th & 10th January 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Tommy Redmond,
Enniscorthy Road,

Mary Byrne, Rosemary Heights
& Martin O'Leary, Coolnaleen

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Anne Coughlan, Corabeg,
Ballycarney,

Greg Murphy, Kilbora &
Mary Byrne, Ballinakill & her husband
Patrick & son Seamus

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

16th & 17th January 2021

FERNS CHURCH

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

Paddy Murray, Pairc Mhuire &
John, Bridget, Sean & Noel O'Neill,
Monasootha

8.30am: People of The Parish

11.00am: Joe Crowley, Tinnashrule

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to the family of
Johana Fortune, Corah & The Hartley
Family, Campile on the death of Canon
Noel Hartley, who served in curate in
Booavogue & P. P. of Kilmuckridge.
To Yvonne Jordan and family on the
death of her father Michael Joredan
Ballyorley R.I.P.

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

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

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

**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.

Come to the water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he submitting to God's will. At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God.

'In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God — we must be born from above.'

Postponement of Schools Re-Open

The Schools will not reopen in January due to Covid 19. Please God the present serious wave of the virus will soon settle down with the vaccine coming on stream and people behaving in a prudent and responsible way. It is all about respect, for God, Self, Others and the World. The Christian call is to love God and love neighbour so that calls for the utmost respect.

May 2021 bring every Blessing and Happiness to Children, Parents and Teachers. This will be an important term for all our pupils, especially for those who are in 2nd Class who will be preparing for First Penance and First Holy Communion. While those in sixth class will be preparing to finish primary school and move on to secondary..

We ask all in the Parish to please pray for all our young people, their parents and families. Our faith is a treasured gift passed on to us down through many generations. Just imagine the great unbroken links that connect us to Jesus Christ, the faith has been passed on from generation to generation because of the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, let the example and faithfulness of this generation be a great source of encouragement to all around us. If parents hand on the faith they have done their part and then it is up to the children to do likewise.