

Sunday Envelope Collection
 The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€610.00**
 The amount received for
Ballyduff was €
 The amount received from **Clogogue** for
 January was €
Thank you for your generosity

Ferns Church Area Balance Sheet
 The Annual accounts for the Ferns area were included in an insert in this weeks Newsletter. The finances are in a healthy condition due to the support of parishioners. It was most surprising when I worked out the income, to see that the Sunday envelope collection was up on last year, most of my colleagues are experiencing the opposite in their churches. I thank all in the parish for their help and generous support towards our Church, here in Ferns and in Ballyduff and Clogogue. All Churches are in a great condition due to your support.
 I thank the Parish Councils and Finance Committees for their work and support at all times. Copies of it are available in the Church or you can view/download it on www.fernsparish.ie
 The Parish Pastoral Centre has commenced and it will be a tremendous asset for our parish. Hopefully it will be completed by Summer.

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




Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 15. No. 25 13th & 14th February 2021 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 February 2021 • Day of Prayer for Temperance

 LENT 'Stretched out his hand...'
 Jesus, in today's Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus' time.
 Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love. A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? Who is it that we need to reach out to at this time?
 Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.
 'There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.' (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 225)

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.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

Lent
 Wednesday will be **Ash Wednesday** a day of **Fast and Abstinence**. Mass will be live streamed on Wednesday at 9.30a.m. & 7.00p.m. Blessed Ashes will be available in the Church from 10.00a.m. The words used when placing blessed ashes on a person are:
"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel".
Let us with God's help let those words become a reality in our lives this Lent.

Ferns Community Development Association
There will be a Table Quiz
 Live streamed
On Thursday 25th February. Cost per table €15.00 per Family/Group
 This will be similar to the one held before Christmas in aid of the Christmas lights, that was a most enjoyable event and at requests for another we will hold one on the above date. The profit will go towards a range of projects for our village. Check out www.fernsvillage.ie for registration & payment **Your support would be greatly appreciated. Please encourage friends and relatives to join in.**

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

13th & 14th February 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: John Byrne, St. Aidan's
Joseph O'Leary, Ballymore, Camolin
(Months Mind)

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Peadar Leacy, Alderbrook &
formerly of Boolavogue
Michael & Kathleen Kinsella, Ballyduff
Patrick & Bridget Leacy, Clologue & their
son John.

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

20th & 21st February 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Betty Dunbar, Ballylough
Jackie Hanlon, Coolbawn

8.30am: Michael & Margaret Bolger,
Bolachoir

11.00am: Jim & Margaret Gethings,
Coolbawn

Patrick O'Toole, Ballingale & Edward
Kinsella, Effernogue

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

Rev. Ricky O'Connor C.C.

085 7662706

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to The Fortune Family
on the death of William (Willie)
Fortune, Coolbawn

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

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.**

**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, keep-
ing 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.

SEASON OF LENT

On Wednesday we will commence the season of Lent. The day prior to Lent is called Shrove or Pancake Tuesday. Both titles have their own significance.

We call it 'Pancake Tuesday' because in the past the Fast during Lent was very strict and before the season started the people used up the surplus food in the home, which at the best of times was scarce and the variety rather lacking. The normal food in the house was milk, flour, eggs, butter, and salt. They used these which are the ingredients for pancakes so that they would not be tempted to over indulge in food during Lent. It was called 'Shrove Tuesday' because it was the last day before Lent to go to confession to be shriven (absolved) of their sins. In the past this was the great day for going to confession and then the people did penance for their sins for the next forty days. We are given this great Season of Lent to do **Penance** for our sins, to **Pray** and give **Alms**. We have the forty days because Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days and nights to prepare himself for his three years of public ministry, so Jesus was 30 years of age at that time, as he died at the age of 33 years. Please make an effort to follow the example of Jesus by making a few resolutions to Pray, Fast and give Alms.

**Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction,
will take place in Ferns Church during Lent
on Mondays and Thursdays at 7.00p.m.**

They will be livestreamed

Also you could visit the Church or when open after the lockdown, the Convent Chapel where there is daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Valentine's Day

On Sunday we celebrate the feast of St. Valentine. In the annual calendar it is a romantic day, a day of love and affection, when we tell those we love and respect they are very special in our lives. In a normal year the florists would be doing a roaring trade with loved ones buying red roses for the one who is special in their lives. We pray that the love people offer to one another will be sincere and filled with respect, forgiveness and true Christian love. In his latest Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' Pope Francis speaks of fraternal love which encompasses all people. Let our love today include every creed, colour and class.

Paragraphs from the Encyclical:

94. Love, then, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful apart from their physical or moral appearances. Our love for others, for who they *are*, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by cultivating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all.

A love ever more open.

95. Love also impels us towards universal communion. No one can mature or find fulfilment by withdrawing from others. By its very nature, love calls for growth in openness and the ability to accept others as part of a continuing adventure that makes every periphery converge in a greater sense of mutual belonging. As Jesus told us: "You are all brothers" (Mt 23:8).