



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€260.00**
The amount received for
Ballyduff was **€395.00**
The amount received from **Clogogue** for
January 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
Email: StAidan.Ferns@svp.ie
Phone: 086 721 9303

Ferns Church Area Balance Sheet

The Annual accounts for the Ferns area are
available 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.

Schools

We welcome back the pupils in our
schools after the mid term break, live
streamed for the present. We hope you
had a relaxing time and helped out at home
with chores.
Usually this term children in second class
would be training hard for First Penance
and Next term for First Holy Communion.
This term and next will be different for
preparing for these great faith events.
Have no fear they will take place and the
preparations will continue. Parents please
support your children in their faith.

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: revrickyferns@outlook.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.fernsadoration.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. 26

20th & 21st February 2021

1st Sunday of Lent

Wilderness

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to embrace the wilderness. The past year has given us experience of wilderness as our world battled a pandemic. Many people were afraid, isolated, alone, and uncertain of what the future would bring. Humanity was adrift in what seemed like a desert moment. However, wilderness can bring opportunity. It can be a time for deep reflection, where we take stock of what is most important to us, a chance to let go of things that are really not important and focus on where we are being called to be. During this past year, what opportunity did this wilderness offer you?

Lent is also a time where people give up something, focus on weight loss or getting fit, take on a course, try to better themselves in some way. And these can be good things, but Lent is so much more than that. It is a retreat time, a time to make room for something deeper. It is a spring-cleaning sort of time, an opportunity to ask, 'what needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God?' 'What changes am I being called to embrace?' Without change we cannot grow, and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. Lent offers us the opportunity to make space for something new, to let go of that which is keeping us from living life to the full.

The Gospel today is short, Jesus is sent into the wilderness, into the desert, and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space. It is true that we might encounter our demons there, but we should not be afraid because as the Gospel tells us clearly today, this is a Spirit-led desert. God is with us. Let us try to embrace this wilderness. How we make use of this time determines what will be.

'You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself.'

Ferns Community Development Association

There will be a Table Quiz

Live streamed

On Thursday 25th February. Cost €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 this Thursday.

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

20th & 21st February 2021
FERN'S CHURCH

6.30pm: Betty Dunbar, Ballylough
Jackie Hanlon, Coolbawn

8.30am: Michael & Margaret Bolger,
Bolachoir

11.00am: Owen Jordan, Coolbawn
(Months Mind)

Jim & Margaret Gethings, Coolbawn
Patrick O'Toole, Ballingale & Edward
Kinsella, Efferogue

Mass Time & Intentions Next Weekend

27th & 28th February 2021
FERN'S CHURCH

6.30pm: Lil & Bill Kavanagh & their
daughter Susan Halpin, Strahart

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Tommy Davitt, Crory



BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
**Bridget Bernadette Connors &
Mary Kate Bernadette Connors**
who was baptised recently.

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

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

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to Mary and the Bolger Family on the death of Patrick (Paddy) Bolger, Ballybeg. To Frances O'Toole, on the death of her sister Nora Driscoll, U.S.A. To Noel Doyle on the death of his sister Nora May Doyle R.I.P.

*May the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace.*

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, 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.

Reflection for weekend 20th Feb & 21st Feb 2021

Great Christian Thinkers – Karl Rahner

Isn't he a modern theologian? He was, he died in 1984 but he had a huge impact on the theology during this century. **Who exactly was Rahner?** He was a German theologian, born in 1904 and who later became a Jesuit. He was appointed to the theological faculty at Innsbruck in 1936 and was made a Professor after the 2nd World War. He was also Professor at Munich and Munster Universities. He was influenced by the philosopher Heidegger and taught that divine grace can only be fully understood when it is experienced. But after Vatican II, where he was the theological adviser, he developed the idea of 'anonymous Christians'. **What did he mean by that?** It goes back to Cyprian, who taught that there was no salvation outside the Church. Pope Boniface VIII in 1302 put it more bluntly: 'It is altogether necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman pontiff [pope]. There have been many attempts to answer the question of what happens to the unbeliever. **How did Rahner get involved in that debate?** The position of Pope Boniface might have been the official teaching of the Catholic Church but the Church states that it can be interpreted by the Church in different ways. **And Rahner interpreted it anew for the Church?** Yes, after an American priest tried to return to the traditional teaching, the Church said no one could interpret doctrine except the Church itself. Rahner taught that all people, at all times, had a real chance to believe. **Even if they had not heard the gospel?** Exactly. Instead the grace of Jesus Christ could reach them through their consciences, or even through a non-Christian religion. So even atheists can be saved because Christ is at work in their lives. They just don't realise it yet. **So that's why he called them 'Anonymous Christians'?** Absolutely. **Has this line of thinking been influential?** It has indeed It has given rise to the idea that rather than seeing people as lost, we should see them as being 'anonymous Christians'. This has also influenced Liberation Theology and even statements from groups like the World Council of Churches, because the Church is justified in refocusing her religious mission in favour of political injustices. Colin Blakely

Lenten Resolutions

To help in a practical and meaningful way, we make a few resolutions and with God's help, keep them and improve our lives. God loves a trier and cheerful give. "The impossible is to be tried"

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings after 9.30a.m. Mass. Last week's newsletter had different days and times, but following discussions it was decided to change. Some people tune in to Knock Shrine each evening for Rosary at 7.00p.m. followed by Mass. On YouTube Knock Shrine.ie

Trocaire

The Trocaire Lenten campaign commenced on Wednesday. Trocaire was established by the Irish Bishops Conference to help those in the Third World through evangelisation in the Catholic Faith, Education, Health Clinics, Hospitals, Farming support, Hygiene, irrigation, Horticulture, Poverty, etc. Please try and support the efforts of Trocaire in helping those in deprived and war torn areas in the world. Our Irish nation is noted for the help of the deprived world wide. Our history shows we got help from other nations in our need, Let us care for those in need today. "I was hungry and you gave me food".