



Sunday Envelope Collection

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

The amount received for
Ballyduff was €

The amount received from **Clogogue** for
January was €

Thank you for your generosity

Church Lockdown

Although we are not allowed to attend Mass in the Church in person we are very fortunate to have Mass live streamed daily at 9.30a.m. plus Saturday at 6.30p.m., And Sundays 8.30a.m. and 11.00a.m. Please keep in touch with the local community of faith by joining in on Live stream, connection details below.

With our Parish website you can keep up to date with all that is happening in the parish by checking out

www.fernsparish.ie

Each morning you can join in, Monday to Saturday at 9.15a.m. for **Stations of the Cross** before Mass.

The Church is open each day after Mass to 4.00p.m. for private prayer or if people would just like to sit in the presence of the Lord or light a candle for ones intentions or the intentions of a friend.

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

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: revrickyfernsp@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.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**



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 15. No. 27

27th & 28th February 2021

2nd Sunday of Lent

Transfiguration

Can you recall a time when you had an 'aha moment'? One of those moments when something suddenly makes perfect sense to you. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of a jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from spiritual practice. These are special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but something in us changes. These moments move us outside of ourselves or beyond ourselves in some way. They are moments of transfiguration.

In the Gospel today, Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request, after such an experience of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment?

As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountaintop. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter may have had in mind. These moments of Transfiguration strengthen us all for walking the more difficult paths, sustaining us on the way.

'The Lord is more constant and far more extravagant than it seems to imply. Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?' (Marilynne Robinson)

Welcome return to school

It was very welcome news on Tuesday evening to hear the announce of our Taoiseach Micheál Martin that primary schools would reopen on Monday next for pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class and the remainder returning in two weeks time. It will be good for pupils, parents and teachers. While the schools were closed since Christmas the pupils and teachers were working hard and I am sure parents were doing great supervision and support for their children, helping them to advance their education.

Some parents were working from home and also supervising and supporting their children, we compliment you for your great work, double jobbing for the betterment of your children. We often hear that 'Parents are the first and chief educators of their children', how true that has been since early January. Teachers had to work hard to have lessons prepared for their children on their pads. For the pupils it demands great focus on a small square pad which is not easy. If we think children have square eyes we know why!

Mass Time & Intentions This Weekend

27th & 28th February 2021

FERNS CHURCH

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

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Tommy Davitt, Crory Rita Ronan, Coolbawn (Months Mind)

Mass Time & Intentions Next Weekend

6th & 7th March 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Edward & Bridget Davitt, Craan

8.30am: Michael & Margaret Bolger, Bolachoir

11.00am: Agnes & Michael Andrews, Pairc Mhuire

Maura Foley, Coolbawn & deceased family members



BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
Ava Marie Bolger
who was baptised recently.

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

Rev. Ricky O'Connor C.C.

085 7662706

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to Vinnie & Bridget Gallagher, Knockrobin on the death of his brother Martin Gallagher, Kilmovee, Co. Mayo. To the Cash Family Clologue on the death of Ellen Cash, 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 27th Feb & 28th Feb 2021

Great Christian Thinkers – Ignatius Loyola

What is his claim to fame? Ignatius Loyola was the man who found the Jesuits. Born around 1491 he was a professional soldier until an unfortunate incident with a canon ball led to his conversion to Christianity. **What happened?** He was seriously injured in battle, and while recuperating in his hospital bed he turned to reading book about the life of Christ and the lives of the saints. This had an enormous impact on him and he hung up his sword, vowing to become a soldier of Christ instead. **Not literally a soldier?** Well he was dedicated to the military lifestyle, but he took vows of poverty and devoted his life to Christ. Like the knights of old he dedicated himself to the cross. He found 6 other friends who shared his views and joined him in his quest. However, because they were hindered from going to the Holy Land they went instead to Italy and it was there that they came to the attention of Pope Paul III. **He liked their ideas?** After hesitating at first in 1540 he constituted the new movement, adding a 4th vow to the traditional ones of poverty, chastity and obedience. The new vow was absolute obedience to the Pope. Loyola said that if the Pope declared that which was white was black, they would uphold that it was black too. He wanted his members to obey the Pope. **So they were the Pope's army?** They regarded themselves as a kind of medieval division of storm troopers or SWAT team who would go anywhere anytime, at the request of the Pope. He required members of his Society be of robust healthy, handsome, intelligent and eloquent. Their three tasks were to be education, counteracting the Protestants and undertaking missionary expansion in new areas. **How did he train them?** Loyola came up with a set of Spiritual Exercises, which are still used today and even beyond the Roman Catholic Church. These take place over 4 weeks and cover sin, Christ's kingship, his passion and his risen life. It took up to 15 years to train members, twice as long as they said it took to train children in the faith. You may recall the famous dictum: 'Give me a child until he is 7, and he will remain Catholic for the rest of his life'. That was the Jesuits. **So who were the enemies of the Jesuits?** Heretics. Particularly the Protestants. His experiences after his war-wound were similar to Luther's but whereas Luther wanted to reform the Church from all the medieval practices, Loyola wanted to reinvigorate the Church by restoring them. So he was crucial in what we know as the Counter-Reformation. **Was the Counter Reformation Successful?** Yes but not in England. And the French later didn't like them. So they had the order disbanded in 1773 but it was restored again in 1814. 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 giver. "The impossible is the untried"

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross every morning at 9.15a.m. followed by 9.30 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".