



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€370.00**

The amount received for

**Ballyduff** was €

The amount received from **Cloogue** for  
January was **€314.60**

*Thank you for your generosity*

### Ferns Church Area Balance Sheet

The Annual accounts for the Ferns area are 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 Cloogue. 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.

The Parish Pastoral Centre has commenced and it will be a tremendous asset.

### 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

### 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: [revrickyferns@outlook.com](mailto:revrickyferns@outlook.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.fernsadoration.com](http://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, CLOOGUE

**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. 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. 24

5th & 6th February 2021

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Reflection for weekend 6<sup>th</sup> Feb & 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 Great Christian Thinkers –

#### John Henry Newman

*He was an Anglican who became a Roman Catholic.* Yes, he was. John (1801-1890) was sent by his evangelical father to a private school in Ealing, West London, before going on to Oxford. But it was at Ealing that he had a conversion experience, thanks to one of his teachers. *When did he go into the Church?* He was ordained in 1824 and 4 yrs later he was made vicar of St Mary's Oxford. It was around that time that he met up with some friends who succeeded in changing his attitude to the Roman Catholic Church and the Reformation. He became leader of the new Oxford Movement. *What was that?* It was a series of publications that celebrated the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church. He argued at first that the Church of England was the *via media* – middle way – between the Protestants and the Romans. However one of his articles (Tract no. 90) brought an outcry. His boss, the bishop of Oxford, then banned him from writing any more. *What was wrong with that?* Nothing with that, but he started to argue that the 'middle way' idea was wrong and it was this that indicated his movement towards Rome and away from the Church of England. *And did he obey the ban on writing?* Well, he was pretty upset by the Protestant direction of the Church and 2 years after his article (Tract 90) he resigned his cleric benefice, preaching a famous sermon called *'The parting of friends'*. In 1845 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. *Was he warmly welcomed?* Yes he was immediately made head of the Oratory of St Philip Neri in Birmingham, then was made rector of a new Catholic university in Dublin. *But what was the reaction when he changed his theology so much?* Soon after he was received into the Roman Church he published his *Essay on Development of Christian Doctrine*, which was a defence of his new way of thinking. But he was still a little cautious and was opposed to the wide-ranging powers of the papacy. *Did he get rebuked for that?* No, undaunted, he went further. In 1875 he wrote a famous Letter to the Duke of Norfolk pointing out the dangers of the doctrine of papal infallibility. It didn't seem to do harm for in 1879 Pope Leo XIII made him a cardinal. *Sounds like he was a very successful Catholic.* A great deal of his work came to nothing in his lifetime, but his reputation continued to increase in stature after his death. Some point out that many of his ideas, such as biblical inspiration, the freedom of conscience and the role of the bishops in defining church doctrine, all came to fruition in the Second Vatican Council. *Did he also write a famous opera?* It was a poem actually. In 1865 he wrote the *Dream of Gerontius*, which, in a wonderful way, tells the story of the journey that begins at death. It was later set to music by Elgar. *A very Talented man.* Yes, he and even became a saint. He was canonised on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 by Pope Francis.

**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend**

**6th & 7th February 2021**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:** Michael Andrews Junior,  
Pairc Mhuire

**8.30am:** Johanna Bernie, Killoggy  
House

**11.00am:** Joan Fortune, Corah

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend**

**13th & 14th February 2021**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:** John Byrne, St. Aidan's

**8.30am:** People of the Parish

**11.00am:** Michael & Kathleen

Kinsella, Ballyduff

Patrick & Bridget Leacy, Clologue &  
their son John.

**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.

***Sincere Sympathy***

Is extended to The Ronan Family on the death of Rita Ronan, Coolbawn & The Jordan Family on the death of Mylie Jordan, Carnew Road, R.I.P.

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

**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.

**Lent 2021**

It is hard to believe that Lent is just around the corner. It will commence on Wednesday-week 17th February. Now is the time to make plans for this penitential season and see where we need to make adjustment in life to be more in conformity with the Christian message. We are all virtuous people but we all know we could improve, we are human and prone to mistakes, so it is important we repent and go forward. Let us use this time of preparation to make plans for Lent and how we can use it in a profitable way to 'Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.' Best of luck, God bless

**THE PRIEST ON DUTY**

**V. Rev. Patrick Cushen P.P.**

**053 93 66152/087 238 7559**

**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.

**Jesus the Healer**

In today's Gospel we read about Jesus' first healing in Mark's Gospel. Jesus hears of the illness of the mother of Simon's wife and goes to her. Due to the purity laws of his time this scene would have been considered controversial. His first healing is of a woman and we are told that he touches her, raises her up; he completely restores her to health. Many of his actions here would have been considered inappropriate.

The 'whole city' was crowded around the door as many people wanted to be healed. What a commotion! Jesus, very early on in his ministry is clearly a very popular and attractive figure. Another important aspect of this story is that Jesus does not remain comfortable in this house. He keeps moving, keeps going outward. This requires so much energy and an outpouring of love for those in need. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel what it takes to stay energised for our various ministries: quiet time and space for real encounter with God. Even then, the people hunted for him and said, 'Everyone is searching for you', and still today, everyone is searching.

We too are called to bring healing to others in any way that we can, to those who are seeking, those who are lost, those who are isolated. Jesus shows us that to do this we must be connected to that Divine Presence within us and in our world. Today we can ask ourselves, what do I need healing from? Bring this to Jesus in prayer. And also, how can I reach out, with a healing presence, to others, especially during this time of pandemic?

'I ask God to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion. Let us ask him to anoint our whole being with the balm of his mercy, which heals the injuries caused by mistakes, misunderstandings, and disputes. And let us ask him for the grace to send us forth, in humility and meekness, along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace'. (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 254)