



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€557.00**

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: 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**



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 15. No. 30

20th & 21st March 2021

5th Sunday of Lent

Fifth Sunday of Lent 21 March 2021

'We should like to see Jesus'

Those poor Greeks. Did you notice that they never actually get to meet Jesus? At the start of today's gospel, some Greeks who are followers of Jesus come to Jerusalem. They are travellers, outsiders, and would like to meet Jesus in person. But when Philip and Andrew relay the request, Jesus begins to talk about how his 'hour' is coming. It is the last we hear of the Greeks, who disappear from the story altogether.

But they are important nonetheless. Firstly, they indicate that word about Jesus is spreading. More importantly, they prompt Jesus to reveal that, when his hour comes, he will draw 'all people' to himself. In the space of a few short verses, we go from a brief mention of a group of foreigners seeking Jesus, to Jesus making it clear that his saving mission is for all people, of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles – including these Greeks! There is no suggestion from Jesus that some groups are 'in' and others 'out'. All are included. All are invited. All are welcome.

I remember once hearing someone describe their home as a domestic church, a place of 'indiscriminate welcome'. As we continue our journey through Lent and soon into Holy Week, we listen carefully to these words of Jesus. He came for everyone. He wishes to draw all people to himself. Notwithstanding the current restrictions on gatherings and public worship, let us take this time to reflect on the world we would like to build when things open up again. Are we open to everyone, including 'outsiders'? Do our homes, parishes and communities radiate welcome, where all who enter experience God's love?

'For some, the good news is that there are insiders and outsiders and they are the insiders. For others, the good news is that there are no outsiders.' (Rachel Held Evans)

Reflection for weekend 20th & 21st March 2021

The Memory of a Smile that lasted a life-time!

When Bernadette saw the lady for the first time she was afraid; she clasped her rosary beads as if to defend herself. But when the lady smiled and beckoned her to come near, she was no longer afraid. Already that smile was filling her soul with a deep joy. Another day when she approached, on her knees, with pen and paper in hand asking her to write her name, the lady "did nothing but smile". On the great day, March 25th, when the lady revealed her name the radiance of her smile. that first dawned on the world when she looked down on the new-born Saviour in the cave of Bethlehem, now lit up the dark cavern in the rock on which she stood. One thing is clear. Bernadette carried with her to her dying day the memory of that smile and she was able to reflect it in her own smile. A smile that spoke a language more revealing than words; it brought with it something of the fragrance of paradise. It was a channel of grace not only for her but for others. Years later a man without faith visited her at the Convent in Nevers. She said to him "*as you are a sinner I will show to you the Virgin's smile*". She raised her eyes to heaven and through her smile she showed him the beauty of another world. It was the beginning of his faith. He admitted "*I saw the smile of the Virgin on the face of Bernadette*". In a jaded world all of us young and old need to be taught how to smile. Not a cold sickly smile of a cynic but a gracious smile that warms the heart and assures us of love. **Prayer:** Dear Bernadette, open my eyes to the smile of the Virgin Mary which captivated your heart, so that the warmth of my smile may fall on all I meet to assure them that I have a care for them. (Bernadette Speaks by John Moloney, PP)

Mass Time & Intentions This Weekend

20th & 21st March 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Thomas Kirwan, Coolpark
Martin Byrne, Clonee Lane, Camolin

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Michael & Elizabeth Lacey,
Ballycarney & their daughter Brigid Mary
& deceased family members
Elsie Dunbar, Coolbawn

Mass Time & Intentions Next Weekend

27th & 28th March 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Nicolas & Chrissie Browne,
Piercestown

Kevin Rochford, Pairc Mhuire

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Colm & Molly O'Neill,
Main Street

St Martin Magazine

Money is now due for the St Martin Magazine. If anyone is interested please contact Rita Plummer on 087 7738966.

Irish Catholic

The Irish Catholic Newspaper has now increased its price to €2.50 as and from 1st February 2021. For those who pay for the year we will need an additional €24 to cover from February 1st to December 31st 2021. For those who pay weekly we will require a back payment of €2 to bring you up to date. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

V. Rev. Patrick Cushen P.P.

053 93 66152/087 238 7559

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.



BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
*Cathal John Kehoe &
John Patrick Anthony
Connors*
who was baptised recently.

Ferns Community Development Association

We thank all who took part in the Table Quiz on Thursday, which was a most enjoyable event. Congratulations to the Quiz winners and the winners of the free Raffle.

Our latest Newsletter was distributed to homes during the past week showing the great work that has taken place and is planned for the future. The profits from the quiz night will help these plans.

Sunday Envelope Collection

We are delighted with the response of parishioners to the recently distributed Sunday Envelopes. As you can see from the weekly Parish Newsletter the support each week is most encouraging.

If you wish to return your envelope weekly please leave it in the Sunday Envelope Box any time or the Parish Office in the mornings around Mass time. Every contribution is most valuable and greatly appreciated.

If you have not received Sunday Envelopes and would like to, please contact the Parish Office or one of the priests.

Many people have decided to set up Standing Orders in favour of the parish. If you would like to do similar, please call to the Parish Office, Monday, Wednesday or Friday after Mass or ring the office 053 9366514 to make an appointment.

Also with those who contribute over €250.00 per annum we can get tax paid the amount by 30%.

Lenten Resolutions

Every day is a new beginning given to us by God. On Ash Wednesday many people made Lenten resolutions, some kept and others not. There is no reason if you faltered to stop completely. You can renew your commitment and please God, you will do better the next time. Let us *never despair, live in hope* and begin again. May God be with you.

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross each weekday morning at 9.15a.m. followed by 9.30 Mass.

Both celebrations are great ways of preparing for the great season of the Resurrection. We pray that we will use this Lenten season to change our lives and be more faithful to the message of Jesus.

Trocaire

Working for a just world.

Trocaire

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 Relief, 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".

Due to Covid 19 the fundraising with the Lenten campaign will be badly hit this year. We appeal to you if you have not collected a Trocaire Box to please collect one at the Parish Church or Post Office.

School Back to Full strength

We are all delighted to see the full cohort of pupils back at the primary school. It is lovely to hear the children's voices out at play. We are delighted they worked so well with their teachers and parents on live stream and we thanks the teachers for their work and dedication.

It is great to know that safety rules are being well carried out, all are safe.

Easter in two Weeks

Only two weeks left in Lent, next Sunday will be Palm Sunday and the following will be Easter Sunday. We ask people to prepare as best they can for the remainder of the Lenten season, to improve and be more faithful to the gospel message.