



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€900.00**

The amount received for
Ballyduff was €

The amount received from **Cloogue** 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.fernsparrish.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: fernsparrish@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, 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.fernsparrish.ie**



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 15. No. 28

6th & 7th March 2021

3rd Sunday of Lent

A question of authority

It is tough at times to figure out who has authority on certain issues. There are 'experts' everywhere, telling us how we should eat, exercise, manage our finances... the list goes on. Something that has struck me during the current pandemic is how hard it can be to know who to believe. We hear from doctors and virologists, politicians and economists, and their opinions don't always align. It can take us a while to trust the voices we hear in the media.

The Temple scene in today's gospel sparks a debate about Jesus' authority. While he certainly cuts an authoritative figure as he drives out the stall-holders and money-changers, he is immediately questioned. The Jews demand a sign to explain his provocative words and actions, as if to say 'Who do you think you are?' It is interesting to note that in John's Gospel, this scene takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (unlike the Synoptic Gospels where it comes towards the end). This would explain the disbelief of the witnesses.

In calling the Temple 'my Father's house' Jesus identifies the source of his authority. But his interrogators do not understand, nor do his disciples, though we are told it later makes sense to them after the resurrection. This scene offers more than an angry Jesus and a clueless audience. It is a public revelation of Jesus' identity and authority, as the one in whom God's presence dwells. It also emphasises the radical new way of living that Jesus has come to bring about. As we journey through Lent, we ask ourselves where the message of Jesus has become obstructed in our lives, and how we might open our hearts again to his presence and guidance.

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them... The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.' (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*)

Ferns Community Development Association

Re-scheduled Quiz

There will be a Table Quiz

Live streamed

On Thursday 18th March

Cost per table €15.00

This will be similar to the one held before Christmas in aid of the Christmas lights, that was a most enjoyable event and at a requests for another we will hold one on the above date. The profit will go towards facilities for our village.

Your support would be

greatly appreciated. Please encourage friends or relatives to join in.

More information: www.Fernsvillage.ie

Mass Time & Intentions This Weekend

6th & 7th March 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Edward & Bridget Davitt, Craan
David Loughman, Carnew Road
Jim Moulds, Coolbawn & Baby Anna
Maired
8.30am: Michael & Margaret Bolger,
Bolachoir
11.00am: Agnes & Michael Andrews,
Pairc Mhuire
Maura Foley, Coolbawn & deceased
family members

Mass Time & Intentions Next Weekend

13th & 14th March 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Martin Murphy Clone Road
8.30am: People of the Parish
11.00am:

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

V. Rev. Patrick Cushen P.P.

053 93 66152/087 238 7559

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.

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 6th & 7th March 2021

Delia Smith, well known cook, has opened many eyes to see how simple it can be to produce food that is good to eat. She may be able to do for Scriptures what she has done for the kitchen. She tells us that her own spiritual journey began to take on a new meaning when she felt the need to deepen her faith. *I began to pray for a new outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit* she says. She began to read the divine office every day and attending Mass and in this way got through the Holy Bible in 2 yrs. *I began to appreciate the truth of that famous and much quoted verse that 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4)* In fact in that verse we are given the recipe for spiritual growth. Just as we need nourishment to sustain our bodies in the physical demands of day-to-day life so we need to feed on God's word so that our spiritual lives may grow and meet similar demands. If we feed on Scripture just once a week we are in danger of spiritual starvation. If I could share with you one spiritual breakthrough of my own: it is that if we begin to seek God with all our hearts, he will let us find him. If we make a decision to spend a 'quiet time' every day, seeking him in his word, taking short passages of scripture to read in a prayerful way, praying for help and guidance- then there is no limit to what God has to teach us. It is here we will find wisdom, knowledge and healing; and most important of all here we will meet Jesus.

(Delia Smith: A Feast for Lent)

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 the untried"
There is a list of Lenten resolutions which could be of interest to you! They are in front of the Chair Ambo.

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".