



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€1,166.00**
The amount received for
Ballyduff was €
The amount received from **Clogogue** for
March 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

The Church is open each day after Mass to 4.00.p.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.

Confessions

If anyone wishes to go to confession please contact one of the priests. Social distancing in operation.

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: 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. 35 24th & 25th April 2021 Vocations Sunday 4th Sunday of Easter B

The Good Shepherd

In Jesus' time, being a shepherd was not a pleasant job. Sheep became easily lost and the shepherd's job was to guide them back to safety. There were many dangers and the sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd. Shepherds would round up their sheep in the evening and guide them into their pen. But it had no gate, so the shepherd would have to lie across the space in case the sheep were attacked in the night. The shepherds literally lay down their lives for their flock. John compares the sacrifice of the shepherd to the 'hired hand' who is not really committed to the flock. He does what he has to but flees at the first sign of trouble.

This Good Shepherd Sunday the Gospel describes Jesus as the 'genuine' Shepherd who wants a personal relationship with each one of us and who would lay down his life for us. The Gospel emphasises the importance of relationship as the shepherd knows his flock and cares for them. They 'Follow Him' and it is not a Facebook or Twitter type of following, rather it is a *genuine* relationship. Everyone matters to the Good Shepherd, regardless of their situations. We are told '*I know my own and my own know me*'. We are called today to follow Jesus in a more personal more intimate way. Even when we stray off the path and get lost, it is then especially that the Good Shepherd comes looking for us.

'We think we are feeling from God, but in fact we are running into his arms.' (Meister Eckhart)

Vocations Sunday

As we celebrate Vocations Sunday let us pray as the Lord told us, to ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into the harvest. Prayer is essential, if we are not interested in praying then we will not care, if there is a lack of vocations or not. At present, as we are all aware there is a great lack of vocations for the priesthood and religious life. In our diocese we have two students studying for the priesthood, which is good, but not near enough to supply for the needs of our parishes in the future. We can moan and groan of the lack or we can do something about the situation. Let us start with the Lord's advice and pray. Let us use encouraging words about the priesthood and priestly life. It is a vocation and if the Lord is calling someone they will get great satisfaction and contentment from their vocation. It is a vocation not a job, it demands generous commitment and encouragement in every way. Your affirmation is most encouraging.

TROCAIRE
Working for a Just World

Collection now €2,174.00 which is very good considering lockdown.
"The Lord loves a cheerful giver".

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

24th & 25th April 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Bridget Byrne, The Barracks,
Effernogue

Seán Donnelly, Castle manor.

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Chrissie Breen, Tinnashrule
(months mind)

Eddie Dreelan, Kiltown

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

1st & 2nd May 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: The deceased family members of
the Fortune Family, Clone Rd and Effernogue

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Jim Lawlor, Castle Manor
Aidan Doyle, The Heath, Clonee.

BAPTISMS



We welcome into the faith

Fiadh Catriona

Cahill-Byrne

Michael Anthony

Connors

who were baptised recently.

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

Rev. Ricky O'Connor C.C.

085 7662706

Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage

The diocese will be celebrating a virtual Lourdes pilgrimage this year from St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy.

It will be celebrated from Sunday 9th to Thursday 13th May. There will be an evening celebration at 7p.m. and Mass each morning at 10am with a short homily. More information next week.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.
St. Bernadette, pray for us.

Easter Prayer

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to Micheál & John Maguire & Families, on the death of their sister Ita Carton, Camolin R.I.P.

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

Mary's Meals

Feeds almost 2 million hungry children every school day in a place of education. An Online Quiz, to support their efforts, takes place on the last Friday of EVERY month at 8pm. To join/donate go to www.bit.ly/QuizforMM or contact Martin Colfer on 087 2596159. Thank you.

Chiropodist

Denis Kinsella, Ferns available for house calls if necessary.
Please call 087 2465720

Standing Orders

If you would prefer to pay your Sunday Envelopes by Standing Order please call to the Parish Office and pick up a form or contact one of the priests. Grateful thanks to all who support the Sunday Envelope collection.

**Prayers for
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Prayers for Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mighty God,

in whom we know the power of redemption, you stand among us in the shadows of our time. As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son, we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

Living God,

long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen. Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace. to the glory of your name. Amen.

Reflection for weekend 24th & 25th April 2021

Living our Vocation

How beautiful will be the day when all the baptized understand that their work, their job, is a priestly work, that just as I celebrate Mass at this altar, so each carpenter celebrates Mass at his workbench, and each metalworker, each professional, each doctor with the scalpel, the market woman at her stand, is performing a priestly office! How many cabdrivers, I know, listen to this message there in their cabs; you are a priest at the wheel, my friend, if you work with honesty, consecrating that taxi of yours to God, bearing a message of peace and love to the passengers who ride in your cab. – (Oscar Romero, Nov. 20, 1977)

Pope Francis about St Joseph wrote the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, whose aim was "to increase our love for this great saint". Saint Joseph is an extraordinary figure, yet at the same time one "so close to our own human experience". He did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him. He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still, through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God. God looks on the heart (cf. *1 Sam 16:7*), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. (Pope Francis) "Happy the one who trusts in the Lord." Proverbs 16:20

Brought to you by the Diocesan Pastoral Council