



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€488.70**

The amount received for
Ballyduff for month of June was **€974.00**
The amount received from **Cloogue** for the
month of June **€383.60**

Vocations Collection €289.00

Sick & Retired Priests €49.00

Thank you for your generosity

Our Cemeteries

We are blessed to have lovely places of rest for our deceased relatives and friends. Graves are beautified at patron time and it is a credit to families for taking such care and showing reverence. When tidying your grave **please** respect the cemetery by bringing home rubbish. Thank you sincerely for your support.

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

TEACH na bPAISTI

18 Aldercourt, Ferns, Y21 A2X6 Child-care Facility with outside playground available to rent. Long or Short Term Lease considered. Please contact Quinn Property Gorey 053.9480000

The greatest weakness in life lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always try just one more time

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**

Assistant: Very Rev. Pat Stafford, 086 234 4674

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-Tuesday & Thursday 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.fernsparish.ie



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 15. No. 48

24th & 25th July 2021

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 July 2021, Grandparent's Day

Gift of love

We meet Jesus today in a situation of need. The crowds have followed him and they are hungry. Jesus challenges his disciples to provide a meal for them.

When they object that they don't have enough money, and only a tiny amount of food, Jesus uses what they have to pull off a remarkable feat (and feast).

For us, this Gospel might bring to mind the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers who experience hunger and hardship today. We are left in no doubt about our obligation to protect and care for those in need, just as Jesus provided for the hungry crowds. This feeding account also has the elements of a Eucharistic meal, with Jesus taking the food, giving thanks, and distributing it to everyone. Jesus doesn't produce this meal from nothing, but transforms what the disciples provide into a blessing for many.

Sharing in Eucharist means sharing our resources. It means ensuring people are not left to fend for themselves in crisis situations. When we receive the body of Jesus, it is a gift of love. But if we do not give and love in return, we are wasting the gift. Where people are in need, it is our responsibility, as followers of Jesus, to share and to provide. God will provide beyond our imagining, no matter how little we think we have to give, but we are invited to take the first step.

'If there is hunger anywhere in the world, then our celebration of the Eucharist is somehow incomplete everywhere in the world... We cannot properly receive the Bread of Life unless at the same time we give the bread of life to those in need wherever and whoever they may be.' (Pedro Arrupe SJ)

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

The homily for this Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time is on the Eucharist for the Gospel for the next six Sundays is taken from famous the sixth chapter of John where Jesus teaches about the 'Bread of Life'. The Eucharist is also the theme of the newsletter insert. There is the seventh of a ten part series on 'A New Irish Catholicism' that explores our need to be newly informed. We feature a video by Bishop Robert Barron on 'Breaking out of the Prison of Self-Invention'. Ibar Quirke explores the life and significance of a saint few of us have heard of but perhaps need to. Brother Solanus offers a meditation on Mary's silence and we also mark the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola. Finally, a beautiful poem by David Carroll. Check out these and other resources available at www.thehookoffaith.com

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

24th & 25th July 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm:

8.30am: Cologue Patron Mass

11.00am:

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Anne Nancy Gethings, Camolin

9.30am:

COLOGUE CHURCH

10.15am: Jim Roche, Bolacreen

CONVENT

Wednesday July 28th 2021

7.00pm:

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

31st July & 1st August 2021

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm:

8.30am: People of the Parish.

11.00am: Joe Nolan, Tombrack & John &

Annie Lancaster, Tombrack

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm:

9.30am:

COLOGUE CHURCH

10.15am:

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

V. Rev. Patrick Cushen P.P.

053 93 66152/087 238 7559

Cologue Patron Today July 25th

The Patron has been live streamed.
Prayers will be available on the Parish

Website www.fernsparish.ie

Mass offered in Ferns today at

8.30a.m.

Ballyduff Patron 8th August

We thank all for caring for the graves
beautifully. May they rest in peace.

31st July & 1st August 2021

Ministers of the Word

6.30pm: Mary Cash

8.30am: Theresa Nolan

11.00am: Josephine Murphy

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.30pm: Margaret Maguire & Michael Bernie

8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia

11.00am: Ann Swaine & Michael Breen

**Seeing your Life through the
Lens of the Gospel**

1. At the heart of this story we are told that Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them. In our day this reminds us of the Eucharist, the bread of life, with which Jesus feeds us. Can you recall an experience of Eucharist that was especially significant for you? What was it that made it different? How did it influence your understanding of the Eucharist?
2. Take, give thanks, distribute. The actions of Jesus also suggest an attitude to time, gifts and living. We take what we are given, give thanks, and use what we have. Have you found that having a grateful heart for what you have been given has made it easier for you to share with others?
3. From what seemed meagre and inadequate resources many were fed. When have you found that when you gratefully use what little resources you have the results are beyond your expectations?
4. Jesus chose to involve those around him in feeding the people. Have there been times when you have experienced benefits from calling on those around you to use their gifts to help with a task?

Ferns Village Golf Classic 2021

Takes place Friday 13th August at Enniscorthy Golf Club. Team of 4-€120.
To book call Teresa @ 086 6049340 or Tom @ 086 2142339
www.fernsvillage.ie

Charities Act Form (CHY3 Cert)

The parish and curacies can claim back income tax paid by subscribers of €250.00 or over in the year. It will not cost the tax payer anything. Last year we received through this scheme a total of €4,247.70, which was great, considering especially with fundraising non-existent from sources outside the church, through various events. If all who received letters recently, to be signed for this scheme sent back the forms we would be eligible to receive €10,000.00 approx., which would be a tremendous amount, costing the taxpayer nothing.

Already we have a number of forms returned and have forward them to the revenue commissioner. If you have received one of these letters, could you *please sign it and return.*

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to the Jimmy Franklin & Family on the death of his wife Grace Franklin, Tomsallagh who died recently
R.I.P.

*May the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace. May God and
Our Lady console the bereaved.*

Reflection for 24th & 25th July (Grandparents day and the Elderly)

St Anne and St Joachim

While very little is known of these two celebrated grandparents there is according to tradition some information concerning their lives found in the 2nd century "First Gospel of James" and the 3rd century "Gospel of the Nativity of Mary". Anne was born in Bethlehem in Judaea. She met and fell in love with Joachim. They were both wealthy and lived a devout life together. However their marriage was not complete as they had no family. Joachim suffered from being taunted at the Temple for his sterility. Anne too, was embarrassed at having no family and knew how Joachim suffered. One day unexpectedly Joachim disappeared and escaped into the countryside as he wanted to spend more time in prayer. Anne, grieved at the disappearance of her beloved Joachim. However, she knew she had to do something to help her husband. She implored the Lord and solemnly promised that if their prayer was answered she would dedicate their child to the Lord's service. The Lord answered her plea and sent an Angel to both Anne and Joachim telling them that Anne would conceive a most wonderful child. Joachim and Anne returned to their home and there was great excitement when their baby daughter was born. Anne named her Mary. Anne and Joachim enjoyed their miraculous parenthood for three whole years together. Then Anne, wishing to keep her promise, she and Joachim brought Mary to the Temple of Jerusalem and left her there to be brought up. Once there, the toddler proceeded to climb the 15 Temple steps that led to the Holy of Holies. This innermost part of the Temple was a place where only the High Priest could enter to make sacrifice and even then only one day out of every year. No doubt at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the High Priest (the Orthodox churches teach that Zechariah was the High Priest that year, the father of John the Baptist) did not turn the child away, but even took her into the holy site. Mary remained in the Temple until the time when she was betrothed to Joseph, shortly before the Annunciation, which tradition says took place in Nazareth and not in Jerusalem. Today we celebrate the most holy of grandparents St Anne and St Joachim. Happy Grandparents Day and Happy feast day of the Elderly...we salute you.

**World Day of Grandparents
and the Elderly Sunday 25th July**

On 31 January 2021, Pope Francis announced, after the Sunday Angelus, that the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday, 25 July, the Sunday nearest the memorial of Ss Joachim and Anne (26 July). The voice of the elderly 'is precious,' Pope Francis said, 'because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of the peoples.' The elderly, he continued, 'remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between the different generation, to pass on to the young the experience of life.'

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this inaugural commemoration is 'I am with you always' (Mt 28:20). It expresses the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The theme, 'I am with you always' is also 'a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share', notes the press release. Not only are grandchildren and youths invited to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelisation, proclamation and prayer and of encouraging young people in their faith.