



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€764.60**  
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](http://www.svp.ie/requesthelp)  
Email: [StAidan.Ferns@svp.ie](mailto: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

"Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy."

### 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**

**Assistant: Very Rev. Pat Stafford , 086 234 4674**

**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-Tuesday & Thursday 9.00a.m.)

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 8.00a.m. - 10.00p.m.** ([www.fernسادoration.com](http://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](http://www.fernsparish.ie)



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 15. No. 49

31st July & 1st August 2021

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Reflection for 31st July & 1st of August Who is Saint Alphonsus Liguori?

Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Patron Saint of Arthritis, Confessors and Moralists. He was a Former Lawyer ordained near the age of 30 year old Founder of the Redemptorists Order. He was a Composer, a Musician, a Poet, Author, Scholastic philosopher, and theologian. He died at the age of 90 on August 1, 1787. Alfonso Maria de Liguori was born near Naples in 1696. The father wanted his eldest son to receive a good education, so Alfonso as a child was educated by preceptors. At thirteen, he started his law studies and at sixteen, four years before the normal age, he obtained his doctorate in civil and canon law in Naples university. It is said of him (with a little 'exaggeration') he has never lost a case in eight years of advocacy exercise. He loved the life of society, entertainment, fashion and music of the Neapolitan theatre. In 1722 he made a retreat with the Vincentians and decided, in private, not to marry. He began to study theology and in 1726 was ordained a priest. For two years he devoted himself to apostolic activity in the kingdom of Naples and earned a reputation as outspoken, a good preacher and an effective confessor. His confessional was always crowded: many hardened sinners returning to the sacraments, enemies were reconciled and he resolved family disputes. It is said he never refused absolution to anyone. But some people found fault with his behaviour. He organized the "slackers", ie the unemployed and idlers of Naples, in groups and gathered them so as to give them religious instruction. In 1729, at the age of thirty-three years, Alfonso left home to become chaplain of a college where they were preparing missionaries for China. Here he met Thomas Falcoia, a priest who was twice her age and who became his close friend. Falcoia had tried for years to found a new religious institute following a vision that he claimed to have had in Rome, but was only able to found a convent of nuns in Scala near Amalfi. In celebration of the Transfiguration of 1731 the nuns dressed the new red and blue dress and began a life of strict enclosure and severe penance: it was the beginning of the Redemptorist nuns, still flourishing today in various countries. Alfonso himself extended the new rule and made it clearer. Bishop Thomas then suggested he found a new congregation of missionaries to work especially among farmers. From 1726 to 1752 he preached everywhere in the kingdom of Naples, especially in villages, with great success. He became a prominent moral theologian.

After the death of Falcoia in 1743, the life of Alfonso was very intense. After 1752 his health began to decline and therefore his missionary work was slowed down. Then he dedicated more time to writing. He was sixty-six years when Pope Clement XIII appointed him bishop of St. Agatha of the Goths. He began to reform the seminary. Then there were priests who said Mass in fifteen minutes or less: Alfonso suspended them until they had changed their way of celebrating. He also wrote an essay on the topic: "*Truly seeing one celebrate Mass in this way is enough to lose faith*." He was in S. Agatha when plague and famine broke out. Given that thousands of people were starving, he sold everything to buy food for the hungry. He had too many debts to procure aid. At one point the people in turmoil wanted to kill the mayor of St. Agatha, wrongly accusing him of concealing food; then Alfonso, challenging their fury, offered his life in place of that of the mayor. He then calmed them by distributing food rations for two days.

In June of 1767 Alfonso got a strong and persistent attack of rheumatic fever. He received the last sacraments and even began to plan a funeral. But after twelve months his life was out of danger. The neck, however, remained bent permanently and that is found in the portraits. As long as the surgeons were unable to straighten him a little, the pressure of the chin caused him a living wound in the chest so much that he could not celebrate Mass. In later years he succeeded, using a chair at the time of communion. In 1784-85 through a terrible "dark night of faith" he is said to have suffered temptations on all matters of faith and all the virtues. He was assailed by scruples, by fears unjustified, by illusions then described as diabolical. This lasted for eighteen months. Then followed a period of frequent ecstasies. It is said that gifts of prophecy and even miracles had taken the place of the interior trials.

Alfonso died in the night between July 31 and August 1, 1787, two months after his ninety-first birthday. In 1796 Pius VI, the Pope decreed the introduction of his cause in 1816. He was beatified in 1839 and canonized in 1871 and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church. In 1793 the government of Naples recognized the original rule of the Redemptorist's Order. Since 1732, the Redemptorists — a congregation of missionary priests and brothers — have followed in Jesus' footsteps, preaching the Word and serving the poor and the most abandoned. Currently they are widespread throughout Europe, in America and in Ireland where they are remembered for their Novena Missions. St Alphonsus pray for us

### **Mass Time & Intentions**

#### **This 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:** Mass for all buried in the cemetery

**9.30am:**

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

### **CONVENT**

**Wednesday August 4th 2021**

**7.00pm:**

### **Mass Time & Intentions**

#### **Next Weekend**

**7th & 8th August 2021**

#### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:**

**8.30am:**

**11.00am:** Miley Breslin, Coolbawn

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Mass for all in the cemetery

**9.30am:** Bill Tomkins & Deceased Family Members, Kilbora

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**10.15am:**

### **Sincere Sympathy**

Is extended to Annette Nolan & Family on the death of Ned Nolan, Kilcloran, who died recently

**R.I.P.**

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

### **THE PRIEST ON DUTY**

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

**053 93 66152/087 238 7559**

**7th & 8th August 2021**

#### **Ministers of the Word**

**6.30pm:** Brendan Kenny

**8.30am:** Richard Cotter

**11.00am:** Joe Sinnott

#### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.30pm:** Maire Bernie & Mary Fortune

**8.30am:** Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia

**11.00am:** Michael Breen & Patricia Keenan

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

1. Jesus distinguishes between food that gives quick satisfaction and food that gives lasting nourishment. It is a mark of wisdom to be able to say 'no' to enticing but delusory attractions in order to choose things of lasting value. From your life experience what advice would you give to another about where things of lasting value are to be found?
2. Jesus reminds his listeners that God is the source of all good things. What difference does it make in your life when you are aware that life, the world, everything you have is gift, and you live in a spirit of gratitude?
3. The work of God is that we 'believe in the one whom God has sent'. In what ways has your faith in Jesus enriched and changed your life? How has Jesus satisfied your hungers or quenched your thirsts?
4. As Jesus came down from heaven to give life to the world, so each one of us is here to be a source of life to others. Think of people who have been a source of life to you, and give thanks for them. For whom have you also been a source of life?

### **First Friday**

All invalids in the parish on the sick list will be visited on Thursday & Friday 5th & 6th August with Holy Communion.

### **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](http://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 taxpayer 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.*

### **Ballyduff Patron 8th August**

Next weekend will be Patron day for all who are buried in the cemetery. Mass will be offered on Saturday and prayers will be on live stream at [www.fernsparrish.ie](http://www.fernsparrish.ie) We thank all for caring for the graves beautifully. May they rest in peace.

### **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**1st August 2021**

#### **Food that satisfies**

Growing up, did you hear any 'old wives' tales' about food - eating carrots helps you see in the dark; bread crusts will make your hair curly; an apple a day keeps the doctor away...? These wise old sayings, passed down the generations, were employed to encourage us to eat certain foods, mainly healthy fruit and veg. Many even had an element of truth. These days we can easily establish the accuracy of such claims, but many parents still find themselves falling back on these nuggets of wisdom. Behind it all is a desire to see children grow up strong and healthy.

Recent years have seen an increased focus on health, both physical and mental. Nourishing one's body and mind and keeping them healthy are essential long-term projects, the work of a lifetime. In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about a different type of nourishment - bread that gives life, food that satisfies, food that endures. 'I am the bread of life,' says Jesus. It is Jesus who nourishes us at the very core of our being, who knows our every need and gives meaning to our lives. He tells us today: 'Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life.' As we continue on our way, learning how to best nourish our body and mind, let us not forget to nourish our spirit with Jesus, the bread of life.

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ... 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*)

### **The Hook of Faith**

The homily for this Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time continues our reflection on the Eucharist. We have the eighth part of the series 'A New Irish Catholicism' that explores how the Church of the future will be more participative or might not be here at all. We have the usual newsletter insert and feature the recent defeat of the Assisted Suicide Bill that sought to legalise euthanasia in Ireland. Next week the Church celebrates the feast of St John Vianney and the Transfiguration. We feature the significance of both occasions. Finally, we feature the recently published resources in advance of the Season of Creation that takes place from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October. Check out these and other resources available at [www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)