



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€450.20**
The amount received for
Ballyduff for month of August was **€909.40**
The amount received from **Cloogue** for the
month of August **€352.23**
Vocations Collection €289.00
Sick & Retired Priests €49.00
Thank you for your generosity

Congratulations

To all the boys and girls of Scoil Na-omh Maodhóg who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. They all looked splendid on the day. May God Bless them all and keep them safe. Ballyduff children will celebrate their First Holy Communion next weekend, Saturday 18th September and Tombrack children on Saturday 2nd of October.

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

Guided Pilgrimages on the Lough Derg Pilgrim Path will be offered on Sunday 12th, Wednesday 15th, Saturday 18th & Sunday 26th September and Sunday 3rd October, with Mass outdoors, weather permitting. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option. **Advance booking is essential.** For further information email info@loughderg.org or telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518. www.loughderg.org Lough Derg Pilgrim Path, Pettigo, Co Donegal. F94 N289

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. 16. No. 3

11th & 12th September 2021

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 September 'By my words, I will show you my faith'

In the second reading today from St James we read, 'What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?' And in our Gospel reading we hear: 'The way you think is not God's way but man's...'. These are challenging texts which remind us to reflect on what path we are walking as followers of Jesus. Jesus' path was radically different to what people of his time expected of a Messiah. It was a path that would lead to much sacrifice. Being a Christian today means following Jesus' example, being counter-cultural and making sacrifices for a greater good.

Today is also the second Sunday in the Season of Creation, a time we are called to explore our relationship with nature, God's creation. Pope Francis reminds us in Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home that 'We are not God' (LS, 67). He challenges us to re-examine our vocation to care for creation. In the past we misinterpreted God's words in Genesis to mean that we could have dominion over all of creation, own it and plunder it for our own use. Pope Francis invites us instead to explore our role as carers of creation and reminds us that the very first commandment we were ever given was to be protectors of this beautiful world. Yet, we know the earth cries out to us and that we are living through the sixth mass extinction of life on this earth due to human activity. Ecosystems are collapsing; biodiversity is in crisis. Laudato Si' is a hope-filled document, reminding us that we can set out on a new path, that we are capable of turning things around. One key action each of us can take this Season of Creation is to plant a native Irish tree. Each parish, diocese, family, school, university can engage in this symbolic action to help Restore Our Common Home. This week, gather two or three people and explore what can be done, mindful that our Gospel today urges us to walk God's ways not man's.

Reflection for weekend 11th Sept & 12th Aug 2021

REFLECT: How often do you pause and remember that the land on which you stand is holy ground? Last winter I decided to walk in a park that I often visit near my house. I am not sure what made me slow down and be more attentive than usual, but as I meandered, I noticed that someone had painted small doors — as if for animals, or maybe gnomes — on a pair of trees that I had passed many times. It is hard to describe, but because it was so unexpected, the moment felt magical and holy. I was overcome by a deep sense of joy and gratitude for this particular place and actually laughed out loud alone on the path. While the doors were obviously not natural features like Merton mentions, the experience of slowly strolling and making this silly discovery opened up a heartfelt sense of awe in me: at the wholly (holy) ordinary, but unique, land where I live, for the people and creatures that inhabit it and for the loving Creator with such a big imagination to create something so small, specific and joyful. These moments of awe and transcendence cannot be forced or generated by our will alone, but when we walk on the land where we live with an openness and attentiveness to its holiness, even in its ordinariness, we are sometimes granted the grace to experience God's deep love for us through particular parts of creation. These moments help us foster a deep sense of gratitude and respect for the land and its sacredness, which centres us in our vocation to be stewards and protectors, not exploiters, of the land. Take a walk where you live, approaching the landscape with attentiveness and fresh perspective and with an openness to the Holy Spirit to lead you in your journey. It can be done in rural or urban settings. Taking time to notice all of the small ways that the land where you live sustains you. If you cannot go outside, then slowly walk around your kitchen, noticing all of the food and sustenance that has come from the land through the work and hands of your human family. (Brenna Davis at the Ignition Solidarity Network.)

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend
11th & 12th September 2021**

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm:

8.30am:

11.00am: Colm & Molly O'Neill, Ferns
Maureen Fortune, Primrose Cottage, Ferns

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm:

9.30am: Mary Connolly, Tinahely & deceased
family members.

CLOGUE CHURCH

10.15am:

CONVENT

**Wednesday September 15th 2021
7.00pm:**

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend
18th & 19th September 2021**

FERNS CHURCH

6.30pm: Myles Tyrell, Coolbawn
John Roche, Tombrack & deceased family
members

8.30am:

11.00am: Thomas & Kathleen Fortune,
Ballyandrew & deceased family members

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Jack & Mary Murphy, Ballyandrew &
their son Tim

Garrett & Eileen O'Leary, Clonee Upper &
deceased family members of The O'Toole &
Murphy Families, Clonee Lower

9.30am:

CLOGUE CHURCH

10.15am:

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our
community of faith

Kai William Sheridan

Andrew Pío Berry

who were baptised recently.

18th & 19th September 2021

Ministers of the Word

6.30pm: Ena Gray

8.30am: Richard Cotter

11.00am: Josephine Murphy

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.30pm: Mary Cullen & Dora Murphy

8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia

11.00am: Mary Sinnott & Tommy Davitt

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

1. 'Who do you say that I am?' Imagine Jesus putting this question to you. How would you answer it? How would you answer it, not in words taken from a catechism or textbook, but from your own experience of the significance of Jesus in your life? What does Jesus mean to you? What does his gospel message mean to you?
2. Jesus went on to teach his disciples that following him would be hard at times. There would be a price to pay. Perhaps you also have found that imitating the love and compassion of Jesus is not an easy road? Nor does it come easy to have the constant trust in God that Jesus had. Yet Jesus tells us that this is the way to life. Would you agree?
3. There is a natural human tendency to shy away from what is painful or difficult. Yet if that is our standard pattern of behaviour, we will not get far in reaching our potential. We will never find who we are capable of being. When have you found it worthwhile to face difficulties, persevere, 'carry your cross' for a while to achieve some goal that was important to you?

In memory of Bob Ffrench and Noel Ffrench, husband and son of Mary Ffrench (nee Breen, Kilthomas, Ferns) Mass will be held on Tuesday 14th September at Ballyduff Church followed by internment at the cemetery.

THE PRIEST ON DUTY

V. Rev. Patrick Cushen P.P.

053 93 66152/087 238 7559

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 forwarded them to the revenue commissioner. If you have received one of these letters, could you *please sign it and return.*

A Prayer for our Earth

All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace. (Laudato Si')

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to The Kinsella Family on the death of Margo Kinsella, Effernogue who died recently.

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

**Gorey Further Education & Training
Centre Free, Part Time Courses**

Return to learning: Basic Computers, Intermediate Computer, Everyday Maths & Reading & Writing Skills. Family Learning: Child Development & Play, Reading with your kids & School Maths for Parents.

Accredited Modules in Computers, Office Procedures, Intercultural Studies, Career Preparation, Painting & Decoration & Managing Personal Finance.

Please Contact: Mary Jordan 086 8533145 or maryjordan@wwetb.ie

Coffee in the Shed

In aid of North Wexford Hospice on Sunday 12th September, at Ballyfoley, Camolin, Y21 C6K7 from 11am-8pm. Enquiries to Mary on 087 9726897. Ivan & Mary Rynhart.

**Our Lady of Sorrows • 15 September
Reflect upon the Seven Sorrows of Mary**

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)
2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)
3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)
4. The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)
6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)
7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)

Icon Classes New Ross

What do you know about religious Icons? Well if you wish to find out more and have a chance to make your own, please contact Sr. Helen at the Carmelite Monastery on 087 2181687. Sr. Helen is starting new courses for both beginners and experienced artists alike, here in New Ross, on 22nd September. All brushes, paints, boards and tuition supplied. Spaces are limited, so book early.

Leaving Cert Results

Congratulations to all those who received their leaving Cert results last week. We wish them every success in whatever path they take in life. God bless & direct you.