



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€546.40**  
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*

### 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

On Saturday October 9th, **The Hail Holy Queen Conference** will be on Radio Maria Ireland at 2pm. Guest speakers include Bishop John Keenan, Dr. Patrick Kenny, Fr. Gerry McCloskey, and Dr. Blythe Kaufman.

On the following day (Sunday Oct 10th), the **Coastal Rosary** will take place at 2.30pm. Join people from around Ireland to pray the Rosary for Life and Faith at our grottos, churches, at the coasts and other suitable places. We encourage you to gather safely being mindful of COVID 19 regulations. Simply sign up a Rosary location at [www.coastalrosaryireland.ie](http://www.coastalrosaryireland.ie) or text your location to 087 278 6552.

### Tombrack School

First Penance took place on Thursday & First Holy Communion will be next Sat. 11.00a.m. in Ferns Church. Best of luck for a good day and God bless all concerned.

## 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. 16. No. 5

25th & 26th September 2021

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 26th September

In the second reading from St James today we hear of a condemnation of the rich who exploit the weak. This theme carries on into the Gospel where Jesus has harsh words for anyone who would try to bring down 'the little ones'. It is a lesson in tolerance and a call to care for the weak and vulnerable.

During this Season of Creation we are reflecting on the call to Restore Our Common Home and care more deeply for God's creation, to live out our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork. This means being aware of the facts of the crisis so that we can discern where we are being called to act. Scientists tell us that we are now living through the 6th mass extinction of life on our planet because of the catastrophic destruction of biodiversity due to human activity. We have plundered the earth. We are also aware that our world faces a devastating climate crisis. This Autumn, two vital UN conferences are due to take place, the UN Conference on Biodiversity (known as COP15, in China) and the UN conference on Climate Change (COP26 in Glasgow). Catholics all over the world have been invited to sign a petition addressed to the Presidents of these conferences, to raise our voices for God's Creation and encourage world leaders to take the necessary action. The petition is called 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' and has been endorsed by the Vatican as the main action for Catholics to take during this Season of Creation. It is something we can all easily do by going to [www.thecatholicpetition.org](http://www.thecatholicpetition.org) and inviting our families and friends to do the same. Parishes, dioceses, universities, businesses, congregations can also sign. By taking part in this way, we are standing in solidarity with young people, with the poor who suffer the most from environmental destruction and with creation.

Let us always be conscious of our responsibility to be carers of creation, to connect more deeply with the wondrous world around us, to take action against all that threatens our common home.

You can find this year's Season of Creation resources on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

## Parish Mass Times Adjustments

Since the beginning of June you have been aware that there is only one priest in the parish and we have three Churches to be catered for. Up to the present we have been blessed with Mass at 9.30a.m. each weekday, two Saturday Vigil Masses and four Sunday Masses. I am blessed to have Fr. Pat Stafford (retired), who is willing to help regularly and I am most grateful to him for his support and generosity. When it comes to Fr. Pat or I going away for Pilgrimage or Holiday then it will be impossible for one priest to supply all Masses as at present. At least one hour and a quarter will be needed between Masses. Unfortunately, the morning Mass in Ballyduff will be dropped. To help facilitate a comfortable time between Masses the following arrangement will **commence on 10/11th October.**

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** Ferns **6.15p.m.** Ballyduff **7.30p.m.**

**Sunday Mass:** Ferns **8.30a.m.** Cloogue **9.45a.m.** Ferns: **11.00a.m.**

*All areas will change a little but this seems best for the present, please understand..*

### **Mass Time & Intentions**

#### **This Weekend**

**25th & 26th September 2021**

#### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:** Jimmy Dunbar, Coolbawn  
Christina Murphy, Tincurry & deceased family  
members of The Murphy Family.

**8.30am: People of the Parish**

**11.00am:** Mary Nolan, Tombrack  
Sarah & Miley Breen, Coolbawn

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Aidan & Margaret O'Neill, Ballybeg  
Tom Conroy, Coolnaleen House

**9.30am:** Kitty Murphy, Kilbora

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**10.15am:**

#### **CONVENT**

**Wednesday September 29th 2021**

**7.00pm:**

### **Mass Time & Intentions**

#### **Next Weekend**

**2nd & 3rd October 2021**

#### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:** Martin Murphy, Ballylough  
Joe Harney, Castlelands

**8.30am: People of the Parish**

**11.00am:** Catherine Nolan, Tombrack  
Paula Breen, Newtown & her uncle Amby  
Martin, Boolavogue

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** John Murphy, Tombrack  
**9.30am:**

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**10.15am:**

#### **THE PRIEST ON DUTY**

**V. Rev. Patrick Cushen P.P.**  
**053 93 66152/087 238 7559**

*"Prayer is your road to  
heaven but Faith opens the  
door"*

**2nd & 3rd October 2021**

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

**6.30pm:** Brendan Kenny

**8.30am:** Sister Eileen

**11.00am:** Ailish Davitt

#### **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. John objected when a person, who was not in their group, cast out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus himself had no problems with this. Jealousy can poison our outlook even when what is done by another is good. 'S/he is invading my patch.' Perhaps you have seen, in yourself or in others, the negative effect of jealousy and the contrasting positive effect of being able to rejoice that good is being done, irrespective of the person doing it.
2. In strong terms Jesus condemns those who are destructive of the life of others, particularly the 'little ones'. Just as Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full, we likewise are here to make a positive difference to others. What was it like for you when you were able to do something that was helpful to another?
3. Rather dramatically Jesus tells us to cut off a hand, or tear out an eye, rather than harm another. It is not to be taken literally but it does mean that we should not be casual about our efforts to live a good life. When have you experienced the benefits of an element of seriousness in your approach to life?

#### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Next weekend the first Sunday in October we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving in all our churches. We are celebrating the Month of Creation at present and it is a fitting time to thank God for the fruits of the earth and all their benefits to humankind. We have food to nourish us, water to refresh us and keep us hydrated, leaves of the trees to purify our air and animals for food. Remember the hungry & share.

#### **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.*

#### **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')

#### **First Friday**

All invalids in the parish on the sick list will be visited on Thursday 30th September & Friday 1st October with Holy Communion.

#### **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

#### **Diaries**

For 2022 are now in. Anyone wanting to book a Mass in Ferns, Ballyduff or Clologue can now do so by contacting The Parish Office on 053 9366514 or dropping into the office.

#### **THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK**

St Therese of Lisieux is one of the patron saints of the 'Hook of Faith'. This week we explore why she is patron saint of the missions as we celebrate her feast day on 1<sup>st</sup> October. To mark the 'Season of Creation', Archbishop Dermot Farrell has published the document 'The Cry of the Earth, the Cry of the Poor'. We feature extracts from this important document. The homily for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time reminds us that we are anointed as prophets who are called not just to do good but to multiply the good. Bishop Robert Barron directs us to how to live a meaningful life and finally, the newsletter insert reminds us of an important part of the Church's social teaching, namely the equal distribution of goods which is at the heart of the second reading this Sunday. Check out these and other resources available at [www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)