



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€824.10**  
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*

### St. Patrick's College, Maynooth

Higher Diploma in Theology and Studies  
Are you looking for an introduction to  
Theology, a qualification that allows you  
to teach Religious Education or a start on  
your journey to a masters degree in The-  
ology or Pastoral Ministry?  
Information Email admissions @spcm.ie.  
Commencement date 24/9/21

### 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 sup-  
ports 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

**Guided Pilgrimages on the Lough Derg  
Pilgrim Path** will be offered on Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> & Sun-  
day 26<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Octo-  
ber, with Mass outdoors, weather permit-  
ting. The full route is a 12km loop, with a  
shorter 8km option. **Advance booking is  
essential.** For further information email  
[info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org) or telephone 0(0353)  
71 9861518. [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org) Lough  
Derg Pilgrim Path, Pettigo, Co Done-  
gal. F94 N289

### 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 Al-  
tar & 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. 2

4th & 5th September 2021

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 5th September 'Ephphatha'

This Sunday is the First Sunday of the Season of Creation, a global ecumenical season  
which runs from 1 September until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, 4 October. All  
Christians are invited to embrace this season in prayer, especially in our liturgies, in deep  
reflection, in living more sustainably and in raising our voices in the public sphere. We  
are invited to think more deeply about what is happening at present to the earth, the envi-  
ronmental destruction which now threatens our world and the call to 'eco-conversion'.  
The theme for this year's Season is 'Restoring Our Common Home'. It offers all of us a  
unique opportunity to renew our vocation to care more deeply God's creation.

In today's Gospel Jesus heals a man who was deaf and who had a speech impediment.  
Jesus says to him, 'Ephphatha,' which means Be Opened. Immediately this man was  
healed. There are many issues in our world to which we might be deaf or are 'closed' to,  
sometimes because they overwhelm us. The environmental crises are an example. Pope  
Francis invites us in 'Laudato Si', his letter on the environment, to really hear and listen  
to the earth, which is crying out to us, to the scientific community who are sounding the  
alarm bells, to young people who are deeply concerned. Ephphatha! May we be open to  
hearing these cries, to praying for our world and to take action where we can. We begin  
with the small actions and encourage others to do the same. Ephphatha! Let us all be  
open to this call to care more deeply and 'Restore Our Common Home'.

### Our New Bishop

Monsignor Gerard Nash D.D. will be Ordained Bishop of Ferns on Sunday 5th Septem-  
ber in St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy at 3.00p.m. Due to Covid 19 restrictions it  
will be live streamed from the Cathedral. In preparation for his ministry we are asked  
to remember him in prayer. A Novena (9days) of Prayer commenced on Friday for him,

### Reflection for weekend 4th Sept & 5th Aug 2021 Season of Creation.

During the 2021 Season of Creation, from 1st September through 4th October, thousands of Chris-  
tians on six continents get together for a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, and  
to discover radically new ways of living with creation. More than ever before, the global Christian  
family will unite to pray and take action for our common home. Suggested Practical Actions for  
Parishes / Families during the Season of Creation 2021. "For we know that things can  
change!" (Laudato Si', 13). This Season of Creation is a critical moment for Catholics to lift up the  
voices of the most vulnerable and advocate on their behalf ahead of two important summits, the  
UN Summit on Biodiversity (COP 15) in October and the UN Climate Summit in November (COP  
26). We are invited to join advocacy initiatives such as the Healthy People, Healthy Planet Petition  
urging for bold action to protect creation. Please encourage individuals as well as parishes, dioces-  
es, schools and other Catholic organisations to sign [www.thecatholicpetition.org](http://www.thecatholicpetition.org) 2021 gives us an  
opportunity like no other! Check out the Faith Community Pollinator plan and think about how  
you could implement this in your church grounds <https://pollinators.ie/communities/>  
faithcommunities/ Invite local schools or groups to help.

**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend**

**4th & 5th September 2021**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.30pm:** Peter & Sadie Nolan, Enniscorthy & formally Tinashrule.

Patrick Kehoe, Castle Manor

**8.30am:**

**11.00am:**

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** John & Mary Reddy, Ballyduff & Eddie Dreelan, Kiltown

**9.30am:**

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**10.15am:** Fergus Whelan, Ballinakill

**CONVENT**

**Wednesday September 1st 2021**

**7.00pm:**

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next 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:** Garrett & Eileen O'Leary, Clonee Upper & deceased family members of The O'Toole & Murphy Families, Clonee Lower  
**9.30am:** Mary Connolly, Tinahely & deceased family members.

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**10.15am:**

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our community of faith

***Eóghan Michael Murray***  
who was baptised recently.

**THE PRIEST ON DUTY**

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

**11th & 12th September 2021**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.30pm:** Mary O'Brien

**8.30am:** Theresa Nolan

**11.00am:** Maura Kelly

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.30pm:** Ann Bernie & Brid Breen

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

**11.00am:** Liz Villar & Patricia Keenan

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

1. The healing of the deaf mute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of communication in our lives. The healing touch of Jesus brought the man from isolation into community. Who have been the people who touched you when you felt isolated and alone (perhaps during the recent lockdown) and helped you to come out of painful loneliness? For whom have you done this?
2. Deafness is symbolic of being unable to hear what is being said to us. What a difference when our ears are opened! Perhaps you can recall a time when your ears were opened and you heard in a new way that you were loved - by God or by another person.
3. Words are not the only form of communication. Actions can speak louder than words. Recall times when this was brought home to you.
4. Being able to say what is in you is the other side of communication. Perhaps there have been occasions when you have struggled to find words to express what is deepest in you - your faith, your values, your love. Then something changed and you found the words. What was it like to be able to express your deepest self?

***Sincere Sympathy***

Is extended to George Warren & Family, on the death of his sister, Christine Bass, Ballingarry, Gorey who died recently.

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

**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.***

**Ferns Bowls Club**

Will be returning on Wednesday 8th September from 2pm-4pm in Community Centre. Hoping to see all our members back and new members are very welcome. Strict Covid Regulations in place.

**Sleeping St. Joseph Statues**

Are now in stock in Parish Office.  
8 inch statue €8 & 12 inch statue €12.

**Pilgrimage – Lady's Island**

Restrictions in place due to Covid 19  
Daily Masses 3pm and 8pm  
Adoration 4-5pm Mon Wed & Fri.  
Many musicians and speakers have been invited to take part throughout.  
Small parish groups are welcome.  
Closing 8<sup>th</sup> Sept - 3pm in Church.  
Bookings on 087-6464198  
Transmission via web-cam and 106FM  
[ourladyisland.ie](http://ourladyisland.ie)  
Coffee Shop and Gift Shop open daily  
Pilgrims welcome to Church and Island

**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](mailto:maryjordan@wwetb.ie)

**THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK**

As Mgr. Ger Nash prepares for his ordination as bishop of Ferns this Sunday, we pray for him and the future of our diocese at this historic moment. We have the homily for the Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time that focuses on hearing the Word of God. A question for all of us is: 'What voice do we listen to?' We have the usual newsletter insert and an amazing Pro-Life video called 'Meet Baby Olivia' that maps the beginning of human life. Continuing our Pro-Life theme, we feature an interview with the leaders of Gianna Care in Dublin who talk about the work they do supporting expectant mums. Finally, some light and inspiration from Lorcan Brennan. Check out these and other resources available at [www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)