

 **Sunday Envelope Collection**  
 The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was €348.20  
 The amount received for **Ballyduff** for  
 month of October was €728.00  
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for  
 the month of October €308.00  
**Missions Collection** €2560.00  
*Thank you for your generosity*

*Nothing in nature lives for itself.  
 The rivers do not drink their own water;  
 the trees do not eat their own fruit;  
 the sun does not shine on itself and  
 flowers do not spread their fragrance for  
 themselves.  
 Life is good when you are happy;  
 but much better when others are happy  
 because of you.  
 Pope Francis*

*"It is not enough to say  
 we are Christians.  
 We must live the faith,  
 Not only with our words,  
 But with our actions." Pope Francis.*

**Ministers of Holy Communion  
 and Readers 2022 ROTA**  
 Are now available for collection  
 from the Parish Office or Sacristy.  
 Thank you all for your contribution to  
 the Church in 2021 it is very much  
 appreciated.

**Mary's Meals**  
 Feeds almost 2 million hungry children every  
 school day in a place of education.  
 An Online Quiz, to support  
 their efforts, takes place on the last Friday of  
 EVERY month at 8pm. To join/donate go  
 to [www.bit.ly/QuizforMM](http://www.bit.ly/QuizforMM) or contact Martin  
 Colfer on 087 2596159. Thank you.

### 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 6.15pm 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 **Eircode: Y21 FD 73**

### ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, CLOOGUE

**Weekend Mass Time:** Sunday 9.45am

**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. 1 4

27th & 28th November 2021

First Sunday of Advent

### Reflection for weekend 27th & 28th November 2021

#### That kind soul in the back pew reminds us angels dwell among us

Diana was a member of our parish. She would sit in the back pew with her ailing husband and their 40-year-old son Andy, who has developmental disabilities. I didn't know her name until I heard the news of her death.

What I did know was how lovingly she cared for her husband and son. And I saw a lot of them because I like to sit in a back pew, too. When her husband made his difficult and painful way up the centre aisle to Communion she was with him every step of the way, and with Andy, too. They often would be the last people to receive the Eucharist, and, just at the opening of the left aisle that they used to return to their pew, the three of them would stop and, with their arms on each other's shoulders, bow their heads together in a communion of family, a communion of love.

I can't help thinking that every parish is filled with people like Diana who are, in their own particular way, holy and who, in their own particular way, touch those around them. I don't mean that all these people glowed and loved in the way Diana did. She was special. What I mean is that, when we gather in the church or in the parish hall or outside, each soul is there, each soul is present in some way, each soul touches others in some way. Each of us is an angel and a saint and a sinner. I have no idea how my presence in the congregation touches anyone. But I'm sure it does.

Each parish, I know, is like this, each neighbourhood, each work team, each sports team, each council, each gathering. Wherever souls are gathered, God is. And, wherever souls are gathered, we can see each one of us struggling to find the way through life. As Christians, we understand that we're all yearning for God. That can be a help in the here and now, but it doesn't take away the yearning. For me, God is in the yearning. God is in each soul in its pain and joy, in its wonder and fear. When I look around the congregation at our Mass, I see God in every soul in every pew.

### ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath is made of a circle of evergreen leaves with a purple ribbon, three purple candles and a rose/red candle. The circle represents that God has no beginning and no end. The evergreen leaves tell us that God does not change, he is always loving, forgiving and rewarding. The purple ribbon and candles denote penance, repentance from sin. The rose/red candle reminds us we are living in the love of God's presence. One purple candle is lit on the first Sunday, two purple candles are lit on the Second Sunday, two purple and rose/red candles are lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday or rejoicing Sunday) and all four candles are lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

### JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree goes back through the family of Jesus. Various symbols are put on the tree recalling our salvation history e.g. a fresh root coming from the stump of a tree, a world globe, an apple & snake, a camel & tent in desert, two tablets of stone (10 Commandments), a rope, a ladder, a hammer & chisel, an ark, a rainbow, a lamb, an altar, sandals etc.



**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend  
27th & 28th November 2021  
Ferns Church**

**6.15pm:** Patrick Dunbar, Ballylough  
John & Sarah Kennedy, Ballylough  
**8.30am:** Pious List  
**11.00am:** Maureen Murphy, Charlesfort.  
Maureen Kehoe, Coolbawn (Months Mind).

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Cecilia Browne, Clonee, & her  
parents John & Ellen Sinnott, Clonee

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** Pious List

**CONVENT**

**Wednesday 1st December  
7.00pm:**

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend  
4th & 5th December 2021  
FERNs CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Paddy Doyle, The Square & his  
Grandson Barry O'Malley.  
John Bolger, Carnew Road

**8.30am:**

**11.00am:** Pat & Kathleen Leacy.

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:**

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** Kathleen Brhoon, nee Redmond,  
Ballymore

**THE PRIEST ON DUTY**

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

**053 93 66152/087 238 7559**

**If not available please call**

**Very Rev. Pat Stafford ,**

**086 234 4674**

**Baptisms**

As and from 1st November Baptisms in the parish will be multiple celebrations on Saturdays at 3pm and Sundays at 12 noon. All existing bookings will take place as planned.

**4th & 5th December 2021**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Mary O'Brien

**8.30am:** Theresa Nolan

**11.00am:** Ailish Davitt

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Ann Bernie & Brid Breen

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

**11.00am:** Ann Swaine & Eleanor Hawkins

**First Sunday of Advent  
28th November 2021**

1. We live in a time when we are told that disaster lies ahead for us and for our planet if we do not change our ways. But perhaps this new awareness can be a prelude to us changing our ways? The gospel has written to give hope to Christians in danger. What gives you hope amid the dangers facing our world today?

2. Our church community is also in crisis. The numbers of people attending church services have dropped. We have fewer clergy and religious. Scandals have rocked the church community. What helps you to keep faith in such circumstances?

3. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seemed that your world was collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc.? When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.

4. Jesus himself is the model in this gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of 'waiting in joyful hope'. What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) and hope made to you in facing difficult situations?

5. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, e.g. through love, beauty, nature, etc.?

**NOTICE TO ENVELOPE DISTRIBUTORS**

The Christmas Dues envelopes are now available for distribution for all Parishes. The weekly envelopes for Ballyduff & Clologue for 2022 are also available for distribution. We would be grateful if all distributors would collect them at their convenience. Many thanks for your continued help.

**Time on your hands?**

In association with Wexford County Council & Ferns Community we are in the process of setting up a Men and Women's Shed in Ferns Community Centre. Those retired or with a bit of spare time would really benefit from this. If anyone is interested or would like to obtain further information please contact John on 087 7940830

**Advent Prayer**

O Jesus, living in Mary  
Come and live in us

In the spirit of your sanctity

In the fullness of your strength

In the reality of your virtues

In the perfection of your ways

In the communion of your mysteries.

Be, Lord, over every opposing power.

In your own spirit to the glory of the Father.

**Amen.**



**First Friday**

All invalids in the parish on the sick list will be visited on Thursday & Friday 2nd & 3rd December with Holy Communion.

**A History of Ferns**

This full colour and fully illustrated book is 144 pages long and is a comprehensive history of Ferns and its locality exploring the evolution of the village from the sixth century to the present day.

It is priced at 10 euros. Any queries please contact 0866089198.

Also available in The Parish Office.



**Pious List Mass Times For  
The Month of November  
Ferns**

Sunday 28th Nov. 8.30am

**Clologue**

Sunday 28th Nov. 9.45am

**Day Trip To Arboretum  
Garden Centre Leighlinbridge**

Saturday 4th December. Cost €45pp.

Your tour includes: Coach Transportation, Breakfast and Tour to Old Leighlin.

**Pick Up Points:** Enniscorthy: 9.00am

Bunclogh: 9.20am, Ballon: 9.40am

Arboretum: 10.00am.

For further details please contact:

John Candy 087 2632324 Vera Lomax 087 7634521 May Kelly 087 7468724



**Ferns Parish Shop**

Stockist of Mass Cards,  
Mass Bouquets and a

selection of cards for any

occasion. We also stock a range of gifts  
including Statues, Rosary Beads, Holy

Pictures, Holy Medals &

Baptism gifts.

**Christmas Gifts, Christmas Mass  
Bouquets, Boxed Christmas Cards and  
Candles now in stock.**

*Your support would be greatly  
appreciated.*

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into the faith

**Mary May May Connors**

who was baptised recently.



**Tombrack Remembrance Tree**

Is a tree decorated with baubles dedicated to friends or family who are no longer with us or those who can't be with us this holiday season. There will be a tree lighting ceremony with carols in the school garden on Wednesday 8th December at 7pm. Sponsoring a bauble costs €2 or 3 for €5. Each bauble will have the name of the person you want remembered on it and all proceeds will go towards the school. Baubles are available in the Parish Office, Daybreak & The Discount Centre.