

 **Sunday Envelope Collection**  
 The amount received for **Ferns** for the week was **€477.00**  
 The amount received for **Ballyduff** for month of November was **€226.00**  
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for the month of November **€437.10**  
**Missions Collection €2570.00**  
*Thank you for your generosity*

*"Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"  
 Matthew 28:19*

### 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 6.15pm 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.fernssadoration.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.fernsparrish.ie**

**St Martin Magazine**  
 Money is now due for St Martin Magazine. The cost will be €13.20 for the year. Anyone interested in ordering a copy please contact Rita on 087 7738966

### 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.



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 16. No. 17

18th & 19th December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Reflection for weekend of the 18th & 19th December 2021

#### Prepare for Christmas by serving others, Pope says

Just like the preparations people make to welcome a guest to their home by cleaning and preparing "the best dinner possible," Christians must do "the same with the Lord," he said. St. Luke's Gospel, the pope added, also encourages one to ask, "What should I do with my life? What am I called to? What will I become?"

"the Gospel reminds us of something important: Life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left up to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: Discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true!"

The pope encouraged Christians to prepare for Christmas by continuously asking God what should they do for themselves and others in order to contribute to the good of the church and society.

St. John the Baptist's answers, he said, responded to each individual in a way that fit his or her situation in life, a reminder from the Gospel that "life is incarnated" in concrete situations. "Faith is not an abstract theory, a generalized theory; no!" he said. "Faith touches us personally and transforms each of our lives. Let us think about the concreteness of our faith. Is my faith abstract, something abstract or concrete? Does it lead me to serve others, to help out?"

Pope Francis said there are several ways people can serve others during Advent, including by doing "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others," especially by visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.

Then the pope added to the list: "Maybe I need to ask forgiveness, grant forgiveness, clarify a situation, pay a debt. Perhaps I have neglected prayer and after so much time has elapsed, it's time to ask the Lord for forgiveness."

"Brothers and sisters," he said, "let's find something concrete and do it!"

**Brought to you by the Diocesan Pastoral Council**



### Mass Times for Christmas

#### Ferns

Vigil 6.15p.m. Day 8.30a.m. & 11.00a.m.

#### Ballyduff

Vigil 7.30p.m. Day 9.30a.m.

#### Cloogue

Vigil 7.45p.m. Day 9.45a.m.

### Sunday 26th (St. Stephen's Day)

#### Ferns

8.30am & 11.00am

#### Ballyduff

10.00am

#### Cloogue

9.45am

No Vigil Masses will take place for Sunday 26th Dec. only morning Mass



**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend  
18th & 19th December 2021**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Kevin & Mary Quigley, Pairc Mhuire  
Jim Brooks, Ballyboy & his daughter  
Peg Blowers

Teresa Hawkins, Buncloody Road

**8.30am:** Thomas, Bridget & Gerald Kearney  
Min Quigley, Effernogue

**11.00am:** Johanna Fortune, Corah &  
deceased family members of The Fortune &  
Kennedy Families & Jim & Ellen Nolan, Kiltown

*Prayers: Bridie O'Brien, Kiltown*

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:**

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** Ted Kelly, Cloologue

**CONVENT**

**Wednesday 22nd December 7.00pm:**

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend  
25th & 26th December 2021**

**Ferns Church**

**6.15pm:**

**8.30am:** People of the Parish

**11.00am:** Pat Martin, Formerly of Ballingale

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:**

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:**

**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**

*Happy Christmas and every blessing  
for the New Year to all our  
Parishioners and all who worship  
at our churches.*

**24th & 25th December 2021**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Ena Gray

**8.30am:** Theresa Nolan

**11.00am:** Josephine Murphy

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Maura Bernie & Mary Fortune

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

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

**26th December 2021**

**Ministers of the Word**

**8.30am:** Sister Eileen

**11.00am:** Maura Kelly

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

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

**11.00am:** Eleanor Hawkins & Mary Sinnott

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

**For Christmas Eve &**

**Christmas Day**

**24th & 25th December 2021**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**6.15pm:** ~~~

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8.30am:** ~~~

**11.00am:** ~~~

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**7.30pm:** ~~~

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9.30am:** ~~~

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**7.45pm:** Marie Gleeson, Ballyfoley.

Martin Mahon

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9.45a.m.**

People of the Parish

**Sincere Sympathy**

Is extended to the family of Siobhan Kinsella, Bolachoir who died recently.

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

**Blessing for a Christmas Crib**

O God, out of your love for us you sent your dearly beloved Son to become man. You willed that he be born in a humble stable in order to give us an example of humility. We pray you now to bless this crib, a representation of the scene of his birth; may it draw us closer to him. By imitating his humility may we become a worthy dwelling place for his rebirth, Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord.

**Pope's Intention**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit

**Communion Calls for Christmas**

Fr Cushen will attend the sick of the parish with Holy Communion for Christmas on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday this week.

**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.**

**Advent Adoration Suggestion**

As we prepare for the coming of Christ one of the greatest ways to prepare is by visiting the Blessed Sacrament at Exposed in the Convent Chapel.

**Come and Adore**

**His wondrous presence.**

**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.



**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.*

**Advent Season**

St. John The Baptist who came to prepare the way for Jesus had a very simple message "Repent & Believe". Let us listen to him and use this season to change our non Christ-like ways and improve.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
19th December 2021**

1. The greeting of Elizabeth to Mary 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb' is a joyful welcome of the child to come. Bringing new life into the world through pregnancy and birth is one of the most awesome human experiences. How have you experienced this for yourself or in someone close to you?

2. The image of the pregnant Mary going a distance to visit her cousin is a symbol of her willingness to look beyond her own needs to the needs of another. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have been able to act in this way yourself?

3. Mary is praised for her faith, because she believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises? What are God's promises that mean the most to you?