



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€865.00**

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 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 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 **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.fernsparish.ie



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 16. No. 18

25th & 26th December 2021

The Feast of the Holy Family

Christmas

Christmas is Calvary for an awful lot of people. But that isn't a paradox. It is a direct parallel. In English, after all, Bedlam is a short form of the word Bethlehem, while the trial and the dying of Jesus spell out in forensic detail what it is that Law and Order does on a daily basis, here and everywhere else, to protect the peace, for the short form of Jerusalem is traditionally Salem. So the cross shows us the double-cross of culture. The shepherds who visit Mary in the stable are not stand-ins for King David, the prototype of the pastor. In Luke's time, they were seen instead as desperados from a sordid underworld, vile criminalised individuals. So the stable is an unstable venue, reversing our priorities. The whole of Western philosophy begins with the self; but the stable knows that it starts with the Other. We all talk about bringing Christ into the world; but the stable knows how this is done: in darkness, in displacement, in the mess and mucus of jeop- ardy.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

On this final weekend of 2021, Bishop Ger shares with us his uplifting Christmas message in written and video form. Included also is Pope Francis' Message for 'World Day of Peace' that highlights the need for dialogue between the generations on how to ensure lasting peace. We have a homily for the feast of the Holy Family by Fr Roger O'Neill and an article on the witness of St Joseph at the end of the year that was dedicated in his honour. We have the usual newsletter insert and a focus on the feast of the Holy Innocents on 28th December. Finally, we feature the first of short but inspiring video clips by Catholic Lay evangelist, Matthew Kelly. Check out these and other resources available at www.thehookoffaith.com



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



*A Saviour
Has Been
Born To Us
He Is
Christ
The Lord.*

**Mass Time & Intentions
This 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:

**CONVENT
Wednesday 29th December 7.00pm:**

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend
1st & 2nd January 2022
FERNs CHURCH**
6.15pm: Anna May Maher, Pairc Mhuire & her son Michael
8.30am: Catherine Dwyer, Rockville Brigid Erry, Pairc Mhuire
11.00am: Margaret Nolan, Tombrack
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

BAPTISMS
We welcome into the faith
Élla Rose Sanchez
Sophie Rose Kirwan

"In a dream I heard a voice saying 'fear not, come rejoice. It's the end of the beginning, praise the New Born King.'"

1st & 2nd January 2022

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Ena Gray
8.30am: Maureen Kavanagh
11.00am: Frances O'Toole
Ministers of Holy Communion
6.15pm: Ann Bernie & Mary Fortune
8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia
11.00am: Ann Swaine & Eleanor Hawkins

Parish Office

Will reopen 4th January 2022.
Mass cards can be obtained after Mass at 9.30a.m. daily or at Centra.

**The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph
26 December 2021**

1. Luke's skill as a storyteller comes through in the details of the story in a way with which many people can identify: the loss of a child, the frantic search, the seemingly offhand speech of the teenager. Let the drama of the story speak to you. Where do you find good news in it?
2. The distress of Mary and Joseph brings to mind the distress of many parents separated from their children in today's world by social unrest, forced migration and other factors. How does the plight of these families speak to you?
3. In Luke's Gospel this story serves to give a glimpse of the future greatness of Jesus, the teacher of his people. Sometimes we can look back over our own life, or the lives of others, and with hindsight can see in childhood or teenage years a glimpse of gifts and talents that were later to blossom. Where have you seen this?
4. 'Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?' This seemingly insensitive reply by Jesus to Mary serves to highlight that in his life the mission given him by God would take precedence over family ties, painful though this would be. Perhaps you have known situations in your own life where there was pain for family members as you followed your own destiny? Where in the midst of the pain was the good news?

Parents & Children

We celebrate today the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We as Christians are asked to model our families on the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Families are made up of Parents and Children and all have a vital role in playing their part to make the family the kind of family all of us would like it to be. Parents are the first and chief educators of their children and it is important that they carry out their role diligently, with the help of God and support of other family members. Children also have their role in being loyal to their parents and the good name of the family.

Family is absolutely crucial to the well being of individuals and societies alike. People will come and people will go, but we all begin and end with family. Those who are blessed with a good family are fortunate indeed! However, as we all know, not everything is well with family today. Family is going through a crisis in many societies. The contemporary economic and social realities are putting a huge amount of pressure on family life. The shape and size of family has changed much today. Whatever the shape or size, it is the welfare of the child that must be central to any judgement we pass on the family. In spite of whatever our secular society might dictate, the real significance in most peoples' lives derives, not so much from professional success, as from shaping their children's lives. Parenting, therefore, is an awesome responsibility. And supporting parents must be given the highest priority. (Joe Putti)

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to the family of Catherine Clossick, Carnew Rd who died recently.

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

New Parishioners

If you are new to our parish you are most welcome, we wish you well and hope you will be delighted to be part of our parish and community. If you would like to support our church please call to the parish office and put your name on the list.

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.

Grateful Thanks

All were very impressed with the numbers who came out to honour the birth of Our Saviour at Christmas, even with the treat of Covid 19 and the number joining on Live stream, the faith of people was obvious. Lots of preparation goes into **things** for Christmas, but it is most important to be focused on the centre, which is the **Incarnation, the Word, God becoming man**. He came to redeem and save us and it is imperative that we never forget that fact and that we give him thanks, especially in the Eucharist, God's greatest gift to us. It was most gratifying also to in these strange times to have people coming to receive the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation, this for me was most special and gratifying. Christmas is about God's love for us.