



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€628.80**

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*

*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*

### 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.

### 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. 15

4th & 5th December 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

### Reflection for weekend 4th & 5th December 2021

The beginning of the Advent season is an opportunity to discern a new perspective on what is most essential in our lives.

As we begin our journey of hope in this Advent season, we remember God's abundance, from the Garden of Eden to the gift of Jesus' often a focus leading up to Christmas, but centres on loving relationships and justice.

The past two years during the COVID-19 pandemic have led many of us to prepare to enter into Advent in unique and different ways. It has led us to begin this season with a new perspective on what is most essential in our lives. We have an opportunity to continue to shift our gaze from what, for many, is the "normal" frenzy of holiday shopping and busyness — even more so as life for some returns to that past state of normal — to new ways of being and connecting that are lighter on the earth and that promote the life and dignity of all creation. As you wait in joyful hope for Christmas, how are you being called to simplify and live abundantly during this Advent season?

(Brenna Davis is the Director of Education for Justice and Environmental Initiatives at the Ignatian Solidarity Network)



### Heart to Hand

We thank all the teachers and children of Scoil Naomh Maodhóg, their parents and all those who made contributions of food to the Heart to Hand collection recently in the school. Your donations will make such a great difference.

### BISHOP CALLS FOR GENEROUS RESPONSE TO ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHURCH GATE COLLECTION

Bishop of Ferns Ger Nash, following a meeting with local representatives from the Society of St Vincent de Paul, has called for a generous response to the Annual Church Gate Collection which will take place after all masses on the weekend of 11/12 December. The Society has said that calls for help this year will be at their highest level in its history and could reach almost 200,000 by the end of December. The theme for the Annual Appeal this year is 'Impossible Choices' reflecting what those struggling financially face every day. Bishop Ger commended the work of so many volunteers who give so selflessly of their time to assist with the work of The Society throughout the Diocese and beyond and has asked mass goers to respond as generously as they can to the upcoming collection.



### Feast of The Immaculate Conception Mass Times Holy Day of Obligation 8th December

**Ferns:** Tuesday 7th Vigil at 6.15pm & Wednesday  
8th at 9.30am

**Ballyduff:** Tues 7th Vigil at 7.30pm  
**Cloogue:** Wednesday 8th at 9.30am

### **Mass Time & Intentions**

#### **This 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, Coolbawn

**Monday 6th 9.30am:** Tom Turner, Newtown & deceased family members

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:**

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

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

### **CONVENT**

**Wednesday 8th December 7.00pm:**

### **Mass Time & Intentions**

#### **Next Weekend**

**11th & 12th December 2021**

#### **Ferns Church**

**6.15pm:** Kathleen & Kevin Rochford, Pairc Mhuire & Elizabeth Ciss Ivory, Baramona

**8.30am:** Pat & Margaret Doyle

**11.00am:** Fr Jim Fitzpatrick

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Jack Kehoe, Clonee & formerly Oylegate

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** John & Ellen Kennedy, Cloogue  
John & Kitty Burke, Bolacreen

### **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.

**11th & 12th December 2021**

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

**6.15pm:** Ena Gray

**8.30am:** Richard Cotter

**11.00am:** Frances O'Toole

#### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Mary Cullen & Dora Murphy

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

**11.00am:** ELEANOR HAWKINS & Christopher Power

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

**5th December 2021**

1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?

2. John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.

3. 'A voice crying in the wilderness' is sometimes taken to refer to a voice that is ignored. Pope Francis has issued a call to all of us to take part in the consultation process preparing for the Synod in 2023. What can you, and your faith community, do to make sure his call is answered.

### **Blessing for a Christmas Tree**

Bless this tree, this sign of life and freshness and perseverance in creation. It is a reminder that you are born anew in us each day. Bless our family and friends as we celebrate this joyful season. Keep us safe in our travels, kind in our conversations, and gracious in our giving and receiving. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



### **NOTICE TO ENVELOPE DISTRIBUTORS**

The Christmas Dues envelopes are now available for distribution for all Parishes.

The weekly envelopes for Ballyduff & Cloogue 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.**



### **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.*



### **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.

### **PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

### **Advent Penitential Service**

In St. Aidan's Church Ferns on Friday  
17th December at 8.00p.m.

Arrangements will be made for social distancing. Please come and Repent.