



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for Ferns for the week was €791.90

The amount received for Ballyduff for month of November was €226.00

The amount received from Clologue for the month of November €437.10

Missions Collection €2570.00

Thank you for your generosity

Pope Francis

"We have a great responsibility, especially with regard to future generations. What world do we want to leave to our children and our young people?"

Our selfishness, our indifference and our irresponsible ways are threatening the future of our children!"

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 over 2 million hungry children every school day in a place of education. A Christmas edition of the Online Quiz, to support their efforts, takes place on Friday, December 17, at 8pm. To make a special Christmas donation or join in the quiz 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: fpaddycushen@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 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.fernsadoration.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, CLOLOGUE

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. Clologue: 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



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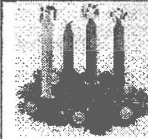
11th & 12th December 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas is all around

The sights and sounds and smells of the season are all around us. Is there a particular sound that reminds you of Advent or Christmas – perhaps a carol you've always loved, or the sound of jingle bells? For many, the smell of mince pies or mulled wine are real signs of Christmas. Our towns and cities are filled with wonderful sights too: festive lights and decorations, trees decked out with tinsel and baubles, while our churches display Nativity scenes. Another common sight in the run-up to Christmas are the charity collectors we meet on the streets, singing carols or shaking buckets, urging us to give generously to a good cause. It is a feast for the senses, with these experiences often evoking warm Christmas memories and putting us in good humour.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday – *Gaudete* means 'rejoice'. In our churches, the rose-coloured candle is lit on the Advent wreath to symbolise joy. Today's readings bring out this sense of joyful anticipation of the Lord's coming. The people of Jesus' time would have been familiar with Isaiah's talk of 'everlasting joy and gladness'. And Jesus tells us: 'Happy is the man who does not lose faith in me'. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today's Gospel. We have reason to be happy – let's make this Gaudete Sunday a real celebration.



Gaudete Sunday

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

On the 4th Sunday we will light the final purple reminding us it is our last opportunity to repent of our sins.



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.



Mass Time & Intentions

This Weekend

11th & 12th December 2021

Ferns Church

6.15pm: Kathleen & Kevin Rochford, Paicr 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, Clologue
John & Kitty Burke, Bolacreen

CONVENT

Wednesday 15th December

7.00pm:

Mass Time & Intentions

Next Weekend

18th & 19th December 2021

FERNS CHURCH

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

8.30am: Thomas, Bridget & Gerald Kearney
Min Quigley, Effemogue

11.00am: Johanna Fortune, Corah &
deceased family members of The Fortune &

Kennedy Families

Jim & Ellen Nolan, Kiltown

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

18th & 19th December 2021

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Mary Cash

8.30am: Dermot O'Brien

11.00am: Eleanor Hawkins

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Margaret Maguire & Michael Bernie

8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia

11.00am: Ann Swaine & Liz Villar

Third Sunday of Advent

12th December 2021 • Gaudete Sunday

1. 'What should we do?' The common thread in John's answers was to encourage his questioners to be other-centred rather than self-centred, each in the context of their own circumstances. In your experience what difference has it made for you when you changed your attitude in this way?

2. John told the people in a direct and honest way what they should do. Perhaps you have had friends who did not beat about the bush but have told you honestly what they thought about your behaviour when you asked them? In gratitude recall such friends.

3. The humility of John comes out in this passage, happy to acknowledge that he only had a minor role to play in relation to the Messiah. At the same time, he was enthused by his mission to 'proclaim the good news to the people'. What difference has it made for you when you were able to see the good in yourself, and use your gifts without having to score by portraying yourself as greater than someone else?



Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to Tom Swaine & Family on the death of his wife Angela Swaine, 45 Coolbawn who died recently.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

May God and Our Lady console the bereaved.

Provisional 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.

Clogogue

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

All going well with no government restrictions these are to the times for the celebration of Mass at Christmas.

Sunday 26th (St. Stephen's Day)

Ferns

8.30am & 11.00am

Ballyduff

10.00am

Clogogue

9.45am



No Vigil Masses will take place on Christmas Day



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 €10.00. Great Christmas gift.

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.

BAPTISMS



We welcome into the faith

John Leo Ward

Patrick John Boggan

who were baptised recently.



Church Gate Collection

Will take place at all Churches this weekend in aid of St. Vincent de Paul.

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.

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.

