



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was
€1,128.50

The amount received for **Ballyduff** for
month of December was **€949.00**.

The amount received from **Cloogue** for
the month of December **€381.50**.

Thank you for your generosity.

Non Registered Parishioners

*The support of the Churches is our parish comes from the Sunday Envelope/
Direct Debit contributors. We are most grateful to all who support at present. It would be most beneficial if all could support, if you would like to do so please contact the parish office or Fr. Cushen. Due to Covid 19 our fundraising events have been cancelled, so please register.*

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 or contact Martin Colfer on 087 2596159. Thank you.



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 16. No. 21

15th & 16th January 2022

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Christian Unity Week

The week of prayer for Christian Unity commences each year on 18th January and concludes on 25th Jan. the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. Christ prayed 'that they all may be one'. We pray that all Christians will work together to promote the message of Christianity, Justice, Love and Peace.

Let us pray that all religious faiths will be respected and valued as they work to make the world a better place and give guidance to humanity to live good lives and have respect for all that is good. Last week we heard of the sad atrocities in France which were motivated by a lack of respect for others and their beliefs. Freedom is most important for all of us, freedom of expression, speech, faith, etc. but let us not insult others as we use our freedom. Also, let us never injure, damage or destroy life or property in our retaliation of what we do not like. Let us work for the values we cherish—Justice, Love, Peace and Freedom. Let us value the goodness of all.

Welcome Bishop Ger

Next weekend we will welcome to our parish, our relatively new bishop, Bishop Ger Nash. He is visiting all parishes in the diocese and celebrating Mass in all the Churches. We are delighted that he is coming to grace us with his presence and give parishioners an opportunity to meet him. While he is here he will open and bless our new Pastoral Centre. The Pastoral Centre will be a great asset to our parish as we prepare for new initiatives in our changing church. Our future will be in our own hands. Pray for its success. Let's embrace change!

Junior Infant Admission 2022 Scoil Naomh Maadhóg.

Parents / Guardians who wish to enrol children into Junior Infants for September 2022 may download an application form from the school website <http://fernsschool.scoilnet.ie/blog/>, email fernsschool@gmail.com or contact the school office during the admission period (from 9am on January 13th to 3pm on February 3rd 2022) to arrange collection of an Application Form. Application forms will also be available from local playschools. The Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Admission Policy, Annual Admissions Notice and School Ethos Statement may be viewed on the school website.

Only fully completed Application Forms will be accepted accompanied by relevant paperwork. Applications will be accepted between 9am on January 13th until 3pm on February 3rd 2022. Further information can be obtained from the school office on 053-9366205

Le meas,
John Halford (Principal)

Mass Time & Intentions

This Weekend

15th & 16th January 2022

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Paddy Murray, Pairc Mhuire
Angela Swaine, Coolbawn (Months Mind)

8.30am:

11.00am: Tommy Ryan, Coolbawn
Owen Jordan, Coolbawn

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: John, Bridget, Sean & Noel O'Neill,
Monasootha & Dublin

Margaret (Peg) Kehoe, Raheen

Prayers For: Martin O'Leary, Coolnaleen

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Sheila & Paddy Ronan,
Clologue

CONVENT

Wednesday 19th January 7.00 p.m.

Mass Time & Intentions

Next Weekend

22nd & 23rd January 2022

Ferns Church

6.15pm:

8.30am:

11.00am: Leo Maguire, Clone
Tom Fortune, Coolbawn

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Pat Hayden, Ballyduff
Tom Doyle, Coolnaleen

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Sean 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

"When one door of happiness closes,
another opens; but often we look so long
at the closed door that we do not see the
one which has been opened for us."

22nd & 23rd January 2022

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Mary O'Brien

8.30am: Dermot O'Brien

11.00am: Josephine Murphy

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Maire Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia

11.00am: Eleanor Hawkins & Mary Sinnott

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to The Kearns Family on
the death of Mark Kearns, Coolatore
& The Family of Liam Egan,
Monageer who died recently
***May the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace. May God
and Our Lady console the bereaved.***

A History of Ferns

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

Also available in The Parish Office.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

'DEVOTION' is the title of the recently
published memoir of former Tyrone All-
Ireland winning coach Micky Harte. In a
moving testimony to the tragic loss of his
daughter, Micky speaks of the value and
gift of his Christian faith in coping with
her loss and finding meaning. Staying
with the topic of meaning, Bishop Robert
Barron explores the question of 'What
makes Life Meaningful?' The Homily for
the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time is
offered by Bishop Ger Nash who reflects
on the story of the Wedding Feast of Ca-
na. We have the usual newsletter insert
and look forward to the Week for Chris-
tian Unity which takes place from 18th to
25th January. Finally, Thursday 20th Janu-
ary marks what would have been the 50th
birthday of Servant of God, Fr Ragheed
Ganni. Ibar Quirke reflects on his ex-
traordinary witness and life. Check out
these and other resources available at
www.thehookoffaith.com

THE TABLECLOTH

A Beautiful story . . . makes you understand that things happen for a reason .

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban
Brooklyn , arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very
run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on
Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule
and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a
large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit,
beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve
service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for chari-
ty, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with
exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the
hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch
the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth
as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem
area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked,
"where did you get that tablecloth?"

The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials 'EBG' were
crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35
years before, in Austria .

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman
explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria

When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was
captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted
on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only
in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit
were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that
they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and
stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife
had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much
alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to
follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years
between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the
same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw
the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

This is a true story submitted by Pastor Rob Reid who says, "God does work in mysterious ways. I asked the
Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today, to guide you and protect you as you go along your way. His love is
always with you. His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares we know He will see us through.
"So when the road you're traveling seems difficult at best, just remember I'm here praying and God will do the
rest. Pass this on to those you want God to bless and remember to send it back to the one who asked God to
bless you first."

When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you need. Take 60 seconds and
give this a shot! All you do is simply say the following small prayer for the person who sent this to you
Father, God, bless all my friends and family in whatever it is that You know they may be needing this day!
May their lives be full of Your peace, prosperity and power as they seek to have a closer relationship with
You. Amen.

Then send it on to ten other people, including the one who sent it to you. Within hours ten people have prayed
for you and you caused a multitude of people to pray for other people.

Then, sit back and watch the power of God work in your life.

P. S. Ten is good, but more is better. 