



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€990.70**

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 **€2,570.00**

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.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.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. 20

8th & 9th January 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. We also celebrate the beginning of Christ's public ministry which was to continue for three years. Christ at his Baptism was made known as the Messiah/Saviour. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, listen to him". Through our Baptism we became followers of Christ, members of his family, his witnesses in the world and heirs to the kingdom of heaven. If we serve Him faithfully we will enter his kingdom. He has promised **"The one who bears witness to me before people, I will bear witness to that person before my Father in Heaven."**

Whenever we come to this Church, be it Sunday or a week day we gather as a family, the family of Christ. As we come here we can see various people involved in various ministries - **we might ask** - Am I actively involved? Could I be actively involved? As Jesus said "Be doers of the word, not hearers only", also "The Word of God is something alive and active." We can be active members of Christ's family or we can be just passive and expect others to do all the service needed in our Church. It is peoples involvement in their Church that makes it active. Do consider helping.

As St. Paul in Corinthians said, "There is a variety of gifts, ... and a variety of services to be done." Could you perform some of these services by giving of your time and talents, e.g. Minister of Word or Eucharist, Distributor of Newsletter, Distributing Envelopes in your area, (there are some areas needing distributors, if you could help it would be tremendous), Choir member, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a regular basis in the Convent, Prayer Group, Visiting the Sick, St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Visiting the Sick and Housebound, etc.

Continue to serve others in whatever way you can - Be servants of the servants of God. Many are and are getting tremendous satisfaction from doing so.

BAPTISM

There are three forms of Baptism as taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Water - The usual form which is performed by the Priest in the Church.

Blood - When someone suffers Martyrdom because of the intention to be baptised.

Desire - Parents have the desire to have their child baptised but the baby dies before the Church ceremony takes place.



**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

8th & 9th January 2022

Ferns Church

6.15pm: Mary Byrne, Rosemary Heights
Jimmy & Anna Maria Mackey, Station Road
Mary & Charlie Christopher, Coolbawn
8.30am: Michael & Bridget Blackburn & their
sons George & Pat

11.00am: John Walsh, The Barracks,
Effernogue & his parents Mary & Ed
Tommy Redmond, Enniscorthy Road

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Greg Murphy, Kilbora

CLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Aidan Murphy, St. Aidan's

CONVENT

**Wednesday 12th January
7.00 p.m.**

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next 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

Margaret (Peg) Kehoe, Raheen

CLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Sheila & Paddy Ronan,
Clogogue

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

15th & 16th January 2022

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Brendan Kenny

8.30am: Richard Cotter

11.00am: Maura Kelly

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Margaret Maguire & Michael Bernie

8.30am: Eileen Brickley & Sr. Cecelia

11.00am: Ann Swaine & Liz Villar

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to The Breen Family on
the death of Mary (Maureen) Breen,
Milltown. To The Hall Family on the
death of Margaret (Maggie) Hall,
Kilthomas and Peter Rafferty, Mel-
bourne, Australia who died recently

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

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
Naoise William Ryan
who was baptised recently.

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

Fr Aedan McGrath was an Irish Columban
priest who was in prison in China for three
years for his missionary activity. We fea-
ture a recording of his remarkable life sto-
ry told by himself just before he died in
2000. For the Feast of the Lord's Baptism,
we have the homily by Bishop Ger Nash
and include the usual newsletter insert that
raises our awareness of our baptismal dig-
nity. We feature an article on the meaning
of our lives that flows from baptism and a
video by Bishop Robert Barron on the role
of the laity as anointed priests, prophets
and kings. Check out these and other re-
sources available at
www.thehookoffaith.com

Come to the water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God re-
veals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a
powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and
the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' en-
counter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an
opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us
something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jor-
dan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. By
approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identify-
ing with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It
is a sign that he submitting to God's will. At this crucial moment, as soon
as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice
of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine ap-
proval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission.
We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus,
members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come
to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that
moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to
live as children of God.

*'In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God
— we must be born from above.'*

Ferns Penny Bank

Will re-open on Friday January 7th 2022 from 9am to 11am and from 7pm to 8pm and
every Friday from therein. New members are welcome from the Ferns area and parish.

For those new to the parish:

Ferns Penny Bank operates on a weekly basis. Monies deposited can not be withdrawn
until 18th November 2022. To help defray costs a €10 deduction is made from savings at
pay out day from the total on each card. Interest accrued from savings is used to help
charitable organizations in the area and other caused of need which may arise.

Ferns Penny Bank is operated by 20 volunteers who keep this community social partner-
ship running smoothly.

New members are most welcome and will receive a depositors receipt card on joining.

Irish Catholic

The Irish Catholic is a weekly religious paper with great articles on religious
issues. At present we have to purchase 10 papers in order to receive a weekly
delivery. If you would like to order a copy please contact The Parish Office.
The cost is €2.50 per issue and we would appreciate payment monthly in ad-
vance. This is important as we cannot obtain a sale or return agreement from
the suppliers. You can also pay an annual subscription of €130.00. If paying by
cheque please make payable to Ferns Parish.