



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received

Ferns for the week was **€500.00**

The amount received for **Ballyduff** for month of **November** was **€917.70**

The amount received from **Cloogue** for the month of **November** **€432.50**

Thank you for your generosity.

Increase in price of Mass Cards

We receive a great number of requests for Mass Cards. The price has been €10.00 for card and offering. Most of the intentions are sent to the missions and they expect €10.00. New price will be **€11.00**, card €1.00 and €10.00 offering.

Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers 2023 ROTA

Please collect the new rota from the Parish Office or Sacristy. Thank you all for your generosity in these ministries.

St Martin Magazine

Money is now due for St Martin Magazine. The cost will be €14.20 for the year. Anyone interested in ordering a copy please contact Rita on 087 7738966

Christmas 2022-New Year 2023

May you and your loved ones, experience the gift of 'God with Us', as you share food, companionship and joy in celebration of his coming; and may your New Year be filled with the blessings of peace of his presence.

Because of your witness to faith, the message of joy and true community has been proclaimed especially to the 'little ones' who were so dear to Jesus during his time on earth.



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**

Opening Hours: 9am-1pm & 2pm-4pm Mon-Fri

Weekend Mass Times: Vigil Mass, Saturday 6.15pm Sunday 8.30am & 11.00am

Weekday Mass Times: Monday to Saturday day 9.30am.

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

We have 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. 17. No. 18

17th & 18th December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

TIME OUT

We're almost there! The run-up to Christmas can sometimes feel like exactly that – a run, or even a marathon. No matter how much we try every year to pay attention to Advent and focus on the important things in our Christmas preparation, the last few days can pass in a bit of a blur. We want our Christmas dinner to be just right. We like to put a lot of thought and preparation into our gifts for loved ones. Many of us are on the move over these few days, perhaps visiting friends with cards and gifts and Christmas wishes, or preparing to return home to our families. There are parties, concerts and carol services. This fourth Sunday of Advent is the perfect time for a time out. Today we find ourselves at the heart of the Christmas story. 'This is how Jesus Christ came to be born,' the Gospel tells us. In the midst of the festive frenzy, it can be easy to lose sight of how our Advent preparation is going. Why not take the time for some quiet prayer today? Spend a few moments in silence reflecting on today's readings, get away from it all with a walk in the great outdoors, or take the younger members of the family to your local church to visit the crib. A pre-Christmas break can help focus your heart and mind. Perhaps it is a good time to remember the wise words of Max Ehrmann's Desiderata: 'Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.'

Advent Penance Services

will take place this **Sunday 18th Dec.**

Ferns Church at 7.00p.m.

Bunclody at 8.00p.m.

and on Thursday in Askamore at 6.30p.m. and Kilrush 7.30p.m.

Please make every effort to attend and prepare for Jesus' Birth. All are very welcome.

Confessions in Ferns daily after 9.30a.m. Mass



Mass Times for Christmas

Ferns

Christmas Eve Vigil 6.15p.m.

Christmas Day 8.30a.m. & 11.00a.m.

Ballyduff

Christmas Eve Vigil 7.30p.m. Christmas Day 9.30a.m.

Cloogue

Christmas Eve Vigil 7.00p.m. Christmas Day 9.45a.m.



**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

17th & 18th December 2022

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Kevin & Mary Quigley, Pairc Mhuire
Jim & Ellen Nolan, Kiltown.

8.30am: Siobhan Kinsella, Bolachoir.
Bridie O'Brien, Kiltown

11.00am: Min Quigley, Effernogue.
Joan Fortune, Corah & deceased family
members of the Fortune & Kennedy Families

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Tess Mannion, Clonattin, Gorey.

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: People of the Parish

**Mass Time & Intentions
For Christmas Eve &
Christmas Day**

24th & 25th December 2022

FERNS CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.15pm: Kathleen & Patrick Leacy, Rosario

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am: ~~~

11.00am: ~~~

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

7.30pm: ~~~

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am: ~~~

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

7.00pm: Marie Gleeson,
Ballyfoley.

CHRISTMAS DAY

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



**24th & 25th December
Ministers of the Word**



6.15pm: Ena Gray

8.30am: Theresa Nolan

11.00am: Frances O'Toole

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Mary Cullen, Maire Bernie &
Margaret Maguire

8.30am: Cecilia Harney

11.00am: Mary Cullen, Mary Fortune



Sincere Sympathy



Is extended to

Phil Murphy and family on
the death of her husband

Dominic Murphy, Milltown, Ferns
To Liz Villar on the death of her mother
Sarah O'Shea, Clone Road, Ferns Lower.

To the family of James Murphy,
Clontarf, who died recently. To the family
of Liam Roche, Main St. **R.I.P.**
May God console the bereaved.

**PARISH OFFICE
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

**The Parish Office will close on Friday
23rd December and re-open on Tuesday
3rd January 2023. Wishing you all a very
Happy and Peaceful, New Year.**

PARISH SHOP

**The Shop will be open
after morning Mass each day.**

**Local Link Wexford: Clogogue – Ferns –
Ballyduff – Camolin – Gorey Route.**

Did you know that **Local Link Wexford**
run a bus service from **Clogogue** via **Ferns,
Ballyduff & Camolin** to **Gorey** every
Tuesday & Friday morning?

There are scheduled stops but they can also
pick passengers up from their homes, offering
a door to door service along the route.
Booking is required by calling **053 901
1828**. You can also register once and a seat
can be reserved for you every week.

Call **053 901 1828** or email: wexford@locallink.ie for further information on
timetable & fares.

Or check timetable on Local Link website:
www.locallinkwexford.ie/timetables.

**Free travel pass accepted and children
under 5 travel free.**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
18th December 2022 • World Day for
Consecrated Life**

The text speaks of how 'God with us' was
revealed to the world in the person of Jesus
2000 years ago. I suggest that we move on
from there to consider how we become
aware of 'God with us' now in our daily
lives.

1. It took some time for Joseph to accept the
fact that, in Mary, there truly was Emmanuel –
God with us. God is with us now, but at
times we struggle to perceive God's presence.
Where have you unexpectedly discovered the
presence of 'God with you'? Recall those
experiences and give thanks.

2. Joseph was confused and uncertain about
what he should do. It took time, and outside
help, for him to discern what his next step
should be. Perhaps you have also had
difficulties along the way to some decisions or
commitments. Recall that journey and the
moments when it became clear to you what
was being asked of you. Give thanks for the
angels who helped you along the way.

3. Mary bore Jesus within her, unseen to all,
and unacknowledged by most. In Joseph
she found one who believed in the treasure
that she bore. We can be bearers of Jesus to
others, and they to us. When have you been
that kind of a bearer of Jesus to another?
Who has been that to you?

Blessing for a Christmas Crib

O God, out of your love for us you sent
your dearly beloved Son to become human.
You willed that he be born in a humble
stable in order to give us an example of
humility.

We pray you now to bless this crib, a
representation of the scene of his birth; may
it draw us closer to him.

By imitating his humility may we become
a worthy dwelling place for his rebirth,
Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

Communion Calls for Christmas

Fr Cushen will attend the sick of the
parish with Holy Communion for Christmas
during this week. If anyone is sick and
housebound and is not on the list please
contact the office on 053 9366514

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

This week's interview is with Sr Marie
Fahy who is the Abbess at St Mary's
Cistercian Abbey in Glencairn, Co. Waterford.
In the interview, Sr Marie talks about faith,
God, vocations and reading the signs of the
times. Fr Martin Pender offers a homily for
the Fourth Sunday of Advent where the
liturgy shifts to the unconventional
circumstances of Jesus' birth. We have the
usual newsletter insert and a reflection by
Philip Quirke entitled 'Morning Offering'. We
have an article on the connection between
the mystery of Christmas and the Eucharist
and finally, a talk by Fr Mike Schmitz on
the gift of joy for which we long. Check
out these and other resources available at
www.thehookoffaith.com

**St. Vincent de Paul - Ferns Branch –
Christmas Appeal**

New dedicated Website -

www.svp.ie/fernsappeal

This new website is enabling donations
made locally, by the people and businesses
of Ferns Town and surrounding area, to be
given directly to local people in the same
area who seek assistance from the Ferns
Branch of SVP.

Many local families and individuals will
face impossible choices this Christmas, due
to the substantial increases in food, electric-
ity, fuel, etc. Your help will make a real
difference. Please visit the website for more
information and perhaps while you are
there you would make a donation – remem-
ber every little helps. The website will be
live for donations until January 13th 2023.

The Ferns Branch of SVP is very grateful
for all donations received.

"Local People assisting Local People"

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.

