

Christmas Day
Grace before meals.



Loving God,
On this Christmas Day we
give thanks that Jesus, your
Son, has come into our world
bringing us gifts of peace and
joy.

Bless us as we sit down
together at this table for our
Christmas meal.

Bless the food we share and
help us to remember those who
are hungry. Be with our
neighbours and our friends,
those who are lonely, sick or
away from home.

We pray that our departed loved
ones may sit now at your table
in heaven.

May the joy of this feast give us
strength and light, now and in
the days ahead. We make this
prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Christmas Day
Prayer for the Family



Dear God,
On this special day when we celebrate the
birth of Jesus, we come together as a
family with thanksgiving and praise. We
praise you for the gift of salvation, for
loving us as we are. We thank you for our
family and friends who love and care for
us.

Forgive us for all our sins, for hurting you
and hurting people around us. Give us a
forgiving heart to forgive those who hurt
us in the past. May your Holy Spirit
reconcile and unite our family from this
day forward.

We pray for healing of our bodies, our
minds, emotions and relationships. We
pray for each member of our family, for
your love and peace to surround us, for
your Holy Spirit to guide us, for your
loving arms to comfort us.

We pray for families who are suffering and
in need. Give us loving hearts to reach out
to love them. We dedicate this day to you.
We pray for your blessings upon our
home. Through Christ our Lord.



Family Prayer

We give you thanks Lord God,
who has blessed us with life and love.

You have given us the gift of the family.
Help us to nurture and protect, to guide and to love each other.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family,
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, protect us.

Give us wisdom and courage, joy and faithfulness
in responding to our special vocation as
a Christian family,
so that we may help each other to grow in grace and love
to the Glory of God. Amen.



St. Aidan's Parish, Ferns
Christmas Newsletter 2022

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*Wishing all in the Parish a very Happy and
Peaceful Christmas and every
Blessing in 2023*

CHRIST BORN IN A STABLE

Christ born in a stable is born in
me.



Christ accepted by
shepherds accepts me.

Christ receiving the
wise men receives me.

Christ revealed to the nations be
revealed in me.

Christ dwelling in Nazareth You
dwell in me.

Christ, grant that people may look
at me and see Your Presence.

Our Church, Crib & Dead

I thank all who worked so hard in
preparing the Church buildings so splendidly
for Christmas and the Crib.

When you visit the Crib pray in
thanksgiving to God for the gift of **Life** and
Faith and remember those who have guided
us in the ways of faith and left us with
precious memories, they are now enjoying
their eternal reward and have left us very
precious gifts. Especially remember those
who died since last Christmas. May they
enjoy the rewards of the Resurrection and
may their families be consoled at Christmas
time.



*Parochial House,
Ferns.
25th Dec. 2022*



Dear Parishioner,

Today we celebrate the Birthday of the **Son of God - The Incarnation**. This is the day we have been preparing for, both spiritually and materially, and the day your children have been looking forward to and are full of joy and excitement that it has arrived.

We gather in our churches today, in great numbers, something which has been lacking since Covid 19 began. Our families have passed on this tradition of gathering to honour our God and thanking him for his blessings

Before the first Christmas, people waited expectantly in hope of the Saviour, we are blessed with faith knowing he has come and will lead us in Peace and Love, if we wish to follow and eventually inherit eternal life.

My wish is that **Jesus Christ** will be welcomed into our homes and hearts this Christmas and **His Love and Peace** will be celebrated and evident in our lives and homes. If the manger is empty at Christmas in our lives, then our lives will be full of anxiety, fear and emptiness

Our gift of memory is a great gift and it can be most helpful and reassuring if used properly. This Christmas we remember the babies that brought great joy to families and the large number of Sacramental Marriages we celebrated in our Churches. We remember in a special way our departed loved ones, family members and friends who meant so much to us, they have left us with great memories of people who reflected for us the love of the Saviour and the peace and friendship they brought. We were blessed to have them, thank God, and now they are safe with Him. We are especially conscious of those who have been bereaved in the past year, it is not easy to face the first Christmas without a loved one, be mindful they are shining down on you. We really loved them and they us.

In our schools it was a blessing for the children to be able to attend each day without the restrictions of the past two years, they missed out in so many areas because of the pandemic. We are blessed with the schools and teachers we have guiding the children who will be the future of our nation and church. It was lovely to be able to have our school celebrations of the Eucharist during the year. The Parish Programme "Grow in Love" is up and running in preparation for First Penance and First Communion, something we could not do for two years. The Parish Pastoral Centre is a great asset to the parish and is used every day, for Eucharistic Adoration, Prayer, and various groups in the parish.

On the Financial front, things have improved, we had a Concert for the first time in three years, which brought in €6,074.00. Sunday Envelope contributions were once again the best on record. At present we have €36,211.55 and still we have this Sunday to come. The tax rebate (on annual contributions over €250.00), from the Revenue Commissioners this year is €6,589.59, so far. Many thanks to all contributors, this is our primary source of income for the church. If you would like to contribute please contact the Parish Office, many are now paying by Standing Order which is very beneficial to the parish.

As we look forward to the New Year, we do so with renewed **hope and confidence**. With Live Streaming people are able to avail of Mass and other services from the parish church, if afraid or unable to come to the Church. I am most grateful to Fr. Pat Stafford for his invaluable help and support, he is a great blessing to me and the parish.

Grateful thanks is extended to all involved in various ministries in the parish. Your generosity and support is something I greatly value and appreciate.

Wishing all, a very Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick B. Cushen P.P.

**News of Great Joy
The Conception of the Son of God**

The virginal conception is a story of divine intervention because the child of Mary is

a person who already existed. "In the beginning was the word ... and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

JOSEPH COULD NOT HAVE FATHERED A PERSON WHO ALREADY EXISTED.

St Augustine marvellously summed up the theological argument thus:

"If a God had to be born, he could only be born of a virgin and if a virgin had to give birth, she could only give birth to a God."

Fr. Sylvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.



Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to The O'Leary Family on the death of Pat O'Leary, Rosemary Heights, and the Stafford Family on the death of Frances Stafford, Summerville, Monageer, who died recently. **R.I.P. May God console the bereaved in their grief and loss.**

**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: People of the Parish

11.00am: ~~~

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

7.30pm: Deceased members of The Jones & Nolan Families

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am: ~~~

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

7.00pm: Marie Gleeson, Ballyfoley.

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.45am: ~~~



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in
Ferns for the week was **€982.90**

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend
31st December 2022 &
1st January 2023**

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Jack Carley, Coolroe, Camolin
Dominic Murphy, Milltown (Months Mind)

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mary Breen, Milltown
Margaret Nolan, Tombrack

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Margaret Hall, Kilthomas

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: John Power, Forties
1st Anniversary

**31st December 2022 &
1st January 2022
Ministers of the Word**

6.15pm: Ena Gray

8.30am: Theresa Nolan

11.00am: Maura Kelly

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Maire Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Eleanor Hawkins & Mary Sinnott