



**Sunday Envelope Collection**  
The amount received in  
**Ferns** for the week was **€1350.00**  
The amount received for **Ballyduff** for month  
of **December** was **€945.20**  
The amount received from **Clogogue** for the  
month of **December** **€458.40**  
*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 Par-  
ish Office or Sacristy. Thank you all for  
your generosity in these ministries.

**THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS  
WEEK**  
'Do Good, Seek Justice' is the theme of  
Christian Unity Week this year that  
runs from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January. We  
share resources and reflect on the  
theme that comes from the prophet Isai-  
ah 1:17. We have a homily for the Sec-  
ond Sunday of Ordinary Time where  
John identifies Jesus as 'the Lamb of  
God' who takes away the sin of the  
world. We have another selection of  
Pope Benedict XVI's best quotes and a  
poetic reflection by Philip Quirke. We  
have an article on synodality by Sean  
O' Leary and a video with Bishop  
Brendan Leahy. Finally, a 10-minute  
extract from an interview by Joe Rogan  
with Jordan Peterson on the Cross of  
Christ and the meaning of suffering.  
Check out these and other resources  
available at [www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)

**ST. AIDAN'S PARISH INFORMATION**  
**Very Rev Paddy Cushen. P.P.** Tel: 053-9366152 / Mobile: 087 2387559.  
E-mail: [frpaddycushen@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, CLOGOGUE**  
**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. Clogogue: 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](http://www.fernsparish.ie)



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 17. No. 22

14th & 15th January 2023

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.

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 January 2023

1. John is one who directs people to Jesus as the one who had a life-giving message for  
them. Who have been the people in your life whose example or advice pointed you in the  
direction of a fuller life? Who has helped you to appreciate the importance of Jesus and  
his message?
2. In the narrative John recognised that Jesus had more to offer people than he himself.  
He had the humility not to need to be the star of the show. Whom have you known with  
that grounded sense of their own place?
3. John proclaims Jesus as one who takes away the sin of the world. Who have been the  
people who, for you, continued this mission of Jesus and led you from sin and guilt to  
forgiveness and freedom? For whom have you done this?
4. It was not just on the cross that Jesus gave his life as the Lamb of God. His public  
ministry was a constant struggle against injustice and oppression. When have you shared  
in this mission of Jesus? Who have been models of this for you?

## Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to  
The Nolan Family, Kilcloran on the  
death of Annette Nolan. R.I.P.  
*May God console the bereaved  
in their grief and loss.*

## Grow In Love

The Grow in Love programme for First  
Communion classes will continue with Mass  
this weekend in Ballyduff at 7.30p.m. and in  
Ferns on Sunday morning at 11.00a.m.  
The theme this week will be **Baptism**  
reminding us of our Christian calling.

### **Mass Time & Intentions This Weekend**

**14th & 15th January 2023**

#### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Paddy Murray, Paic Mhuire  
Elizabeth, James & Anna Marie Mackey,  
Station Road  
Liam Roche, Main Street (Months Mind)

**8.30am:**

**11.00am:** Tommy Ryan, Coolbawn  
Owen Jordan, Coolbawn

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Tom Doyle, Coolnaleen  
John, Bridget, Sean & Noel O'Neill,  
Monasootha

Martin O'Leary, Coolnaleen

**Prayers For:** Margaret Kehoe, Raheen

#### **CLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** Aidan Murphy, St. Aidan's  
Joseph O'Leary, Ballymore, Camolin

### **Mass Time & Intentions Next Weekend**

**21st & 22nd January 2023**

#### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Terry Moloney, London  
Michael & Elizabeth Kearney, Corah

**8.30am:**

**11.00am:** John Walsh, The Barracks, Efer-  
nogue & his parents Ed & Mary Walsh  
Pat O'Leary, Rosemary Heights  
(Months Mind)

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Josephine Murphy, Ballyandrew  
Joe Crowley, Tinnashrule

#### **CLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** Mary & James Breen, Miles-  
hogue  
Sheila & Paddy Ronan, Clologue

#### **Ring Found**

A ring was found in the Coolbawn area.  
Please contact the Parish Office for fur-  
ther information on 053 9366514.

**21st & 22nd January 2023**

#### **Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Ena Gray

**8.30am:** Denis Kinsella

**11.00am:** Eleanor Hawkins

#### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Margaret Maguire & Michael Bernie

**8.30am:** A Volunteer

**11.00am:** Ann Swaine & Michael Breen

#### **Junior Infant Admission 2023**

##### **Scoil Naomh Maodhóg.**

Parents/Guardians who wish to enrol children into Junior Infants for September 2023 may download an application form from the school website <http://fernsschool.scoilnet.ie/blog/>, email [fernsschool@gmail.com](mailto:fernsschool@gmail.com) or contact the school office to arrange collection of an Application Form from the **12<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Closing date for applications is 3pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.** Application forms have also been sent to the 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 original Birth Certificate, Utility Bill and Baptismal Cert (if applicable).** Further information can be obtained from the school office on 053-9366205.  
Le meas, John Halford (Principal)

#### **Ferns Dramatic Society**

Are delighted to announce that Panto is back !!. Tickets for Jack and the Beanstalk Jan 19th, 20th and 21st can now be booked online at [www.gr8events.ie/fernssjackandthebeanstalk](http://www.gr8events.ie/fernssjackandthebeanstalk). Don't be disappointed, book your tickets now.

#### **The Pope's Monthly Intention**

*January – For educators:* We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

#### **\*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 charity, 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 centre. 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 centre 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. 