



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in  
**Ferns** for the week was **€935.55**  
 The amount received for **Ballyduff** for month  
 of **November** was **€917.70**  
 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.

### 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

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25th January 2023  
**Theme: Do Good; seek justice (Is. 1:17)**  
 Ferns Diocesan Ecumenical Service  
**Church of the Holy Trinity, Bunclogh**  
 Sunday 22nd January 2023  
 At 7.00p.m.  
**Preacher: Rev. Michael Anderson**  
 (Arklow Presbyterian Church)  
 All welcome

### The Ballycarney Development Group 2023 Calendars

are for sale at the moment at the  
 following outlets....  
 Daybreak Ferns. Chinese Takeaway  
 Ferns..Bolger Brothers Hardware  
 Ferns..Ballycarney Inn..Foleys Shop Cas-  
 tledockrell..Steemers Bunclogh..Eurospar  
 Bunclogh.. Texaco Station Bunclogh.. and  
 at The Old Post Office, Ballycarney.  
 Calendars are €10 each.. Your support is  
 very much appreciated.

### 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, 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**



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 17. No. 21

7th & 8th January 2023

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 wit-  
 ness 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 fami-  
 ly, the family of Christ. As we come here we can see various people involved in vari-  
 ous 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 peo-  
 ples 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 ser-  
 vices 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, Le-  
 gion 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 satis-  
 faction 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.

**All forms make us members of Christ's Family and heirs to heaven.**



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

**7th & 8th January 2023**

### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Tommy Redmond, Enniscorthy Rd  
Mary Byrne, Rosemary Heights  
Michael & Bridget Blackburn & their sons  
George & Pat, Clone

**8.30am:** Catherine Dwyer, Rockville,  
Brigid Errity, Pairc Mhuire &  
Bridget Jordan, Coolbawn

**11.00am:** Mary & Charlie Christopher,  
Coolbawn

Mark Kearns, Coolatore

### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Greg Murphy, Kilbora

### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** Seamus & Katie Sinnott, Clologue  
& their sons Micheál & Seamus & their  
daughter Áine & deceased family members  
Patrick & Mary Byrne, Ballinakill & their son  
Seamus

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

**14th & 15th January 2023**

### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Paddy Murray, Pairc Mhuire  
Elizabeth, James & Anna Marie Mackey,  
Station Road

Liam Roche, Main Street (Months Mind)

**8.30am: People of the Parish**

**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

### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

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

**14th & 15th January 2023**

### **Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Brendan Kenny

**8.30am:** Dermot O'Brien

**11.00am:** Frances O'Toole

### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Mary Cullen & Dora Murphy

**8.30am:** A Volunteer

**11.00am:** Mary Sinnott & Tommy Davitt

### **A Happy New Year!**

This is a wish we offer to people as we begin a new year. Did you ever ask yourself or reflect on what you are saying? It should not just be words, but have real meaning. Am I really meaning a very happy new year.

Ask yourself how have I been treating that person in the last year?

Have I been a true Christian to that person? If **yes**, increase on the blessing you are, if **not** then pledge to make real change, so that the person will see you are a bringer of true peace. Have love and respect. St Paul tells us how to do it.

Respect/Love is patient and kind,  
it is never jealous

Never rude or selfish, it is always ready to excuse, to trust and endure whatever comes.

Do your best and may God give you a Peaceful New Year.

### **Sincere Sympathy**

Is extended to

The Breslin Family on the death of  
Mary Breslin, Coolbawn

The Family of Jenny Doyle, Corner  
House, Carnew

The Family of Nancy Breslin, Bray  
who died recently.

**R.I.P.**

**May God console the bereaved.  
bereaved in their grief and loss.**

### **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/fernsjackandthebeanstalk](http://www.gr8events.ie/fernsjackandthebeanstalk). Don't be disappointed, book your tickets now.

### **Come to the Water**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals 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' encounter 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 Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he is 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 approval, 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.'*

### **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)

### **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.

Lord, in this new year which we have begun, may we have,  
Enough happiness to keep us agreeable,  
Enough trials to keep us strong,  
Enough sorrow to keep us human,  
Enough failure to keep us humble,  
Enough success to keep us eager,  
Enough wealth to meet our needs,  
Enough faith to banish depression,  
Enough hope to look forward,  
Enough love to give us comfort,  
And enough determination to keep us going. (Anon)

### **THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK**

As the Church mourns the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, we reflect on his life, thought and legacy. We include an article on his take on human freedom, an inspirational quote from 'Deus Caritas Est' for the newsletter and his last spiritual testament. We have a homily for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and words of light and hope from Lorcan Brennan. Check out these and other resources available at [www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)