

 **Sunday Envelope Collection**
The amount received in
Ferns for the week was **€745.00**
The amount received for **Ballyduff** for month
of **January** was **€591.50**
The amount received from **Clogogue** for the
month of **January** **€953.80**
Thank you for your generosity.

Chiropody Clinic
Please contact Denis Kinsella. The
Square, Ferns Y21 N797 on 087 2465720
Available to do house calls if necessary.

The Pope's Monthly Intention
For parishes: We pray that parishes, placing
communion at the centre, may increasingly
become communities of faith, fraternity and
welcome towards those most in need.

*Faith is taking the first step even when
you don't see the whole staircase.*

**Ferns Diocesan 2023
Pilgrimage to Lourdes**
Led by the Bishop of Ferns,
Most Rev. Ger Nash
Pilgrimage Director: **Fr Matt Bogan**
Spiritual Director: **Fr Brian Broaders**
16th May 2023, 5 Nights
From €879 per person
Direct return flights from Dublin
For bookings, please contact
Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410800 or
email: info@joewalstours.ie.

First Penance
Congratulations to the children of Second
Class in Scoil na Maighdine Muire, Bal-
lyduff who received the Sacrament of
First Penance on Tuesday last. They
were Margo Brennan, Amy Harney,
Chloe Kenny Byrne, Eryn Quigley and
Bailey Redmond. Grateful thanks to their
teacher Ms. Mairead Whelan, Parents and
School Choir. Very well done everyone.

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 087 4455393

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**

Lent **Ferns Parish** *The Season of Lent* **Newsletter**

Vol. 17. No. 28

25th & 26th February 2023

First Sunday of Lent



SEASON OF LENT

On Wednesday last we commenced the season of Lent. The day prior to
Lent is called Shrove or Pancake Tuesday. Both titles have their own
significance. We call it 'Pancake Tuesday' because in the past the Fast dur-
ing Lent was very strict and before the season started the people used up the
surplus food in the home, which at the best of times was scarce and the variety rather
lacking. The normal food in the house was milk, flour, eggs, butter, and salt. They used
these which are the ingredients for pancakes so that they would not be tempted to over
indulge in food during Lent. It was called 'Shrove Tuesday' because it was the last day
before Lent to go to confession to be shriven (absolved) of their sins. In the past this was
the great day for going to confession and then the people did penance for their sins for
the next forty days. We are given this great Season of Lent to do **Penance** for our sins, to
Pray and give **Alms**. We have the forty days because Jesus fasted in the desert for forty
days and nights to prepare himself for his three years of public ministry, so Jesus was 30
years of age at that time, as he died at the age of 33 years. Please make an effort to fol-
low the example of Jesus by making a few resolutions to Pray, Fast and give Alms. Sta-
tions of the Cross, will take place in Ferns on Mondays at 7.00p.m.

Also you could visit the Pastoral Centre where there is daily
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Earthquake Disaster Fund Collection

Grateful thanks to church goers last weekend who donated the magnificent sum of
€3,650.00 towards the suffering people of Syria & Turkey. God's blessing on all.

World Youth Day Thurs 3rd-Sunday 6th August 2023

World Youth Day Gathering with Pope Francis

Open to all adults between the ages of 18 & 35. Must be at least 18 years old by 3rd o August.

Only **30 Places available. Allotted on first come first serve basis.**

Cost €650. The price includes: Return flights from Dublin to Lisbon, August 3rd-6th.

Transfer in Lisbon Airport to hotel and return transfer for departure.

2 nights B&B in a city centre hotel in Lisbon. Meals (lunch & dinner) provided by the WYD or-
ganising committee. World Youth Day Package with insurance, Free Public Transport. Pilgrim
pack. Director: Fr Brian Whelan or FernsWYD@gmail.com or 053 9428163

Season of Lent

Stations of the Cross will take place in Ferns Church on Monday evenings
during Lent at 7.00p.m.

Mass in Clogogue Church will take place on **Tuesday** mornings at **9.45a.m.**

Mass in Ballyduff Church will take place on **Wednesday** evenings at **7.30p.m.**

Trocaire Boxes

Boxes are available in all Churches, please bring one to each home.

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend
25th & 26th February 2023**

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Brigid Davitt, Craan

Billy Cash, Pairc Mhuire

Tommy Davitt, Crory

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Jim & Margaret Gethings,
Coolbawn

Peadar Lacey, Aldercourt

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Tom O'Leary, Clonee Lane

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: People of the Parish

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

4th & 5th March 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Maura & John Foley, Coolbawn

Ursula Hayes, Tombrack

Sean Murphy, Crory (Months Mind)

8.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Agnes & Michael Andrews Jnr,
Pairc Mhuire

Jim Moulds, Coolbawn &

Baby Anna Mairead

Sean Davitt's 90th Birthday

Thanksgiving Mass

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: People of The Parish

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: People of The Parish

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to

The Family of Molly Kiely, The Big
Tree, Coolbawn & to The Mullett Family
on the death of Mary Mullett, Tincurry
R.I.P.

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

4th & 5th March 2023

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Ena Gray

8.30am: Denis Kinsella

11.00am: Eleanor Hawkins

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Ann Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Liz Villar & Patricia Keenan

**First Sunday of Lent
26th February 2023**

1. In today's gospel Jesus is enticed to gratify his own needs, or to perform some spectacular act in public. He rejects the temptation because he chooses commitment to his mission and to dependence on his Father over any immediate gratification. We can all be tempted to go for some immediate satisfaction, but is that where happiness lies? Have you found that sometimes there is more contentment in saying 'no' for the sake of some long-term goal? What are the goals, aims, values that inspire you in this way?

2. One way of looking at this gospel is to say that Jesus went into the desert to face his demons. We all have demons we need to face - compulsions, fears, prejudices, anger, and urges that lurk within. It is in facing our demons that we find a way to live a fuller life. Can you recall a time when you grew through facing a 'demon' in this way?

3. In one of her reflections Joyce Rupp describes Lent as a 'time to rediscover lost treasures'. Is there something that once was a healthy part of your life and is no longer there: e.g., reading, exercise, mindfulness, prayer, socialising, fun? Would this Lent be a time to rediscover that lost treasure?

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

Bishop Ger has just issued a pastoral letter for the season of Lent in which he invites the faithful to come back to the sacraments and to make a new beginning together on the journey of faith. The newsletter insert highlights Trocaire's campaign to alleviate the suffering people of Somalia. The homily for the First Sunday of Lent reflects on the temptations of Jesus in which we see the ways we are tempted too. We explore Hungary's pro-family policies and how they are both reducing abortion rates and offering hope for the future. Bishop Robert Barron reflects on inclusivity and love and a new video from 'Word on Fire' explains the harmony between faith and science. Check out these and other resources available at www.thehookoffaith.com

Bishop's Pastoral Letter

"Just as a house is not a home without people our Church buildings are not our spiritual homes without people."

"This Lent I am inviting you, the people, priests and religious of the diocese, to think about your own attendance at Mass in your parish and your commitment to your local Christian community."

"I ask you to allow your thinking be guided by the two aspects of the Christian life - the personal and the communal and especially where the two meet or are intertwined."

"A large number of people have not returned to the Sunday Eucharist in their parish churches."

"Many participate in very beautiful Masses from all parts of the world and find great nourishment in them. But this is Mass as a product to be consumed when in fact Mass is ideally a relationship. This is a reality that we as a Community of believers must learn to accept even if it causes us some regret."

"A return to the Sunday Mass in our public places of worship (Parish Churches) is our way of honouring Christ's sacrifice. We give thanks for his real presence in the Eucharist by presenting our own real presence at Church and thus making real our participation in this most communal of acts."

"I gently invite people who have not been back in Church since before the Pandemic to rethink their decision this Lent and to come back to Sunday Mass so that they will enjoy its benefits and blessings in their lives. Come back only for the love of Christ and this purest of motives will benefit you greatly."

"My prayer for the Diocese of Ferns this Lent is that we as a community of believers will take part fully in our Eucharistic celebrations in our Parish Churches. May the words of the Psalm inspire and motivate us: "And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever". (Psalm 23:6)"

Full text in the back of the Church.

Ferns Parish Office & Shop

Large selection of Communion Cards, Beads, Prayer Books and gifts now in stock.

First Friday

All invalids in the parish on the sick list will be visited on Thursday & Friday 2nd & 3rd March with Holy Communion.



BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
Páidí William Kavanagh

who was baptised recently.
We wish him every blessing.

**FERNS & DISTRICT ACTIVEMENT
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Association is fully operational now and would like to welcome new members to participate and enjoy the events on offer. **A 3 night break** to The Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenney, Co. Donegal is planned from 27th to 30th March, 2023. The cost of the trip is €385 per person sharing. (Single room supplement is extra). The trip is covered by the Association's insurance. Non members are welcome on the trip. Contact Ray at 089 4293494 for details.

Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

In the word of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.