



Sunday Envelope Collection
 The amount received in
Ferns for the week was **€561.00**
 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.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK
 The Homily for this Second Sunday of Lent focuses on the Transfiguration where Jesus' divinity radiated from his humanity. The newsletter insert comments on how God's grace brings out the best in our humanity and how faith is the friend and not the foe of human freedom. We feature another two videos from the 'Wonder' series from Word on Fire and explore how social justice and the liturgy are not at polar ends of the Catholic spectrum but belong together. We include an article on Justice for Lent and how we are called to be just at all times. Philip Quirk pens another reflection called 'The Challenge' and Lorcan Brennan shares more light and inspiration. Check out these and other resources available at www.thehookoffaith.com

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.**

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

A Lenten Prayer
 Look with favour, Lord,
 on your household.
 Grant that, though our flesh be humbled
 by abstinence from food,
 our souls, hungering after you,
 may be resplendent in your sight.

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



Vol. 17. No. 29 4th & 5th March 2023 Second Sunday of Lent

Transfiguration
 Can you recall a time when you had an 'aha moment'? One of those moments when something suddenly makes perfect sense to you. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of a jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from spiritual practice. These are special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but something in us changes. These moments move us outside of ourselves or beyond ourselves in some way. They are moments of transfiguration. In the Gospel today, Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request, after such an experience of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment? As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountaintop. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter may have had in mind. These moments of Transfiguration strengthen us all for walking the more difficult paths, sustaining us on the way. 'The Lord is more constant and far more extravagant than it seems to imply. Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?' (Marilynne Robinson)

Earthquake Disaster Fund Collection
 Grateful thanks to church goers who donated the magnificent sum of **€3,700.00** 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 of 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 organising 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**

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,
Paic Mhuire

Jim Moulds, Coolbawn &

Baby Anna Mairead

Sean Davitt's 90th Birthday

Thanksgiving Mass

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: ———

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: ———

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

11th & 12th March 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Martin Murphy, Clone Road

8.30am: ———

11.00am:

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: ———

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: People of The Parish

St. Patrick's Day Basket Collection

The basket collection taken up at all Masses on St Patrick's Day this year will be used for the Education and Development Fund for the Diocese. As we go into the future we will need to invest money in the training of lay people and priests and seminarians to lead and support the faith development in our parishes. Your contribution will be your commitment to responding to a changing church.

11th & 12th March 2023

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Mary Cash

8.30am: Carmel Doyle

11.00am: Maura Kelly

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Mary Cullen & Dora Murphy

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Mary Sinnott & Tommy Davitt

St. Senan

Feast Day 8th March

St. Senan was born near Kilrush, Co. Clare. His family were prosperous farmers. His vocation seems to have resulted from an experience of danger from the sea. His early studies were mainly made at the monastery of Kilnamanagh. His principal monastic foundation was on Scatterry Island, near Kilrush, in the Shannon Estuary. He was anamchara to Ciaran of Clonmacnois and Brendan and died in 544.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting on Monday night at 8.00pm in The Pastoral Centre.

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.

Bishop Ger Nash, Pastoral Letter (Synopsis)

Since I took up my role as Bishop of Ferns I have been visiting the parishes for weekend Masses as often as I possibly can. I hugely appreciate the welcome given to me. Without exception, I have noticed, that the beautiful churches of Ferns are maintained with tremendous care and affection which indicates to me the important role they play in the life of each Community. However, our Church is more than its buildings, even if they are often the most visible, permanent evidence of the Faith in our communities. "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 of the Pastoral Letter is available at the back of the Church.

**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.

Ferns Parish Office & Shop

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

Tombrack First Penance

Congratulations to the children of Tombrack School who received the Sacrament of First Penance on Wednesday night.

Grow In Love

The Grow in Love programme for First Communion classes will continue with Mass next weekend Saturday 11th in Ballyduff at 7.30p.m. and in Ferns on Sunday 12th at 11.00a.m.

The theme this week will be **"Do This in Memory of me."**

*If you are more fortunate than others,
build a longer table not a taller fence.*