



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in
Ferns for the week was **€558.00**
 The amount received for **Ballyduff**
 for month of April was **€1173.00**
 The amount received from **Clogogue** for the
 month of April was **€592.45**
Thank you for your generosity.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

This week marks the 5th anniversary of the vote that led to the legalisation of abortion in Ireland. The Irish Bishops have released a statement that analyses some of the developments since then and encourages people of faith to change the narrative around the tragedy of abortion. We include Pope Francis' message for 'World Communications Day' in which he invites us to speak from the heart with truth and love. We also include a recent talk by Pope Francis to farmers in which he reminds them that they are the 'first ecologists' and outlines that farming is not just a job but a vocation. We continue with the video series on the creed and explore how single Catholics can meet their future spouses. Finally, we explore the life of St Philip Neri who teaches us the value of not taking ourselves too seriously. Check out these and other resources available at www.thehookoffaith.com

Ferns Concert: Sunday 4th June 2023

The concert is the opening event of the Festival of Ferns – to be held in St. Edan's Cathedral, on Sunday, June 4th at 7.30pm. Featuring **The Allabair Trio**, with Melanie O'Reilly on vocals, David Creevy on guitar, and Brewen Favreau on Uilleann Pipes/Low Whistle, with our very own **Chord on Blues** choir led by Mary Moulds. This concert is the final part of the original song cycle composed by Melanie which comprises new songs inspired by the connection between St. Aidan and St. David. Tickets @ €12 available on Eventbrite, search for Ferns Concert 2023 or <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/fern-concert-2023-tickets-625190440437>. If you can't book online, you can drop into the Medieval Ferns Experience (opposite Scoil Naomh Maoldhóg). Enquiries to: fernsheritageproject@gmail.com

KILMYSHALL PARISH 10K & 5K FUN RUN / WALK

SUNDAY 21st MAY starting at 12:30
 from Kilmyshal Community Hall.
 Registration from 11:30am
 Timed 10K & 5K.

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



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 17. No. 40

20th & 21st May 2023

Ascension Sunday

The Ascension of the Lord

21st May 2023 • World Communications Day

Jesus meets the disciples for the last time. His final words give them direction for their future. Perhaps you can recall such parting moments in your own life – leaving home, school, college, or the death of a loved one. Was there an occasion when the words spoken to you gave you direction for the future? Perhaps you can identify with Jesus in the story, when as a parent, teacher, or in some other way you sent someone on his/her way in life, knowing that you would not be with him or her as in the past. When did the way you parted help the other to make his or her way in life?

Despite this extraordinary encounter with Jesus some of the disciples doubted. Dealing with questions and doubt is part of an adult faith journey. How have your questions and doubts helped to shape the faith you have today?

Jesus commissioned this collection of believing and doubting disciples to carry on his work. We inherit that mission today. How do you see yourself as commissioned to continue the mission of Jesus?

Jesus told his disciples that although he would not be physically with them, he would be with them in a new way right through life. Have there been times when you were reassured by the love and support of another even though s/he was not physically present with you? What are the things that help you to be aware of the presence of the risen Jesus with you on life's journey?

May the Lord Jesus, the pure Word poured out from the heart of the Father, help us to make our communication clear, open and heartfelt.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh, help us listen to the beating of hearts, to rediscover ourselves as brothers and sisters, and to disarm the hostility that divides.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word of truth and love, help us speak the truth in charity, so that we may feel like protectors of one another. Amen.

Pope Francis Message for World Communications Day 2023

The Lord asks a lot of us but only because he assures us of his empowering presence. He has placed his mission in our hands and he has promised us all the resources that we need. There is a strong message coming through in today's feast that the Church must be a community in mission, guided by the God's Spirit and confident of God's protection. Individually and collectively, we are called to make disciples and the Lord empowers us to do that through the giving of his Holy Spirit. Disciples are made by other disciples, by the Lord working through his disciples. We bring each other to the Lord.

Martin Hogan,

You Have One Teacher: Reflections on the Gospel of Matthew (Veritas)

Ferns Patron will take place on Sunday 4th June at 2.00p.m.

St Rita of Cascia (1386-1457)

Patron Saint of those suffering from domestic violence or abuse

Feast Day 22nd May

Loving God, be with all men and women who are in doubt about their intimate relationships. Give them clarity of mind and peaceful hearts so that they can make good decisions guided by Your love. Let those who must, discern any abuse that may exist so that they can learn to care for themselves with Your help. Let those who must, acknowledge that they are harming the other, so they can learn to abhor their own behaviour and come to true repentance and amendment of life. Keep us all safe in our relationships. In Jesus' name. Amen.

www.beliefnet.com

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

20th & 21st May 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15 pm: Charlie & Bridie Murphy,
Ferns Upper

Johnny Kavanagh, Coolbawn & his
parents Lil & Bill Kavanagh, Strahart
& his sister Susan Halpin

8.30am: Matthew & Bridget Brennan, Crory

11.00am: John Livingstone,
4 Rosemary Heights

Bridget Cahill, Askinamoe, also her son
Derek whose birthday occurs around this
time

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Aileen Conroy, Coolmelagh

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Aidan Breen,
Mileshogue

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

27th & 28th May 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Linda O'Toole, Lodgewood
Mary Collier, Ballintore & deceased family
members

8.30am: People of The Parish

11.00am: Jack & Sadie Short, Ballycoog
Lorraine Jordan, Carnew Road, Ferns

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Susan Byrne, Clonee Lane
Mick Murphy, Tincurry, Ballycarney

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am:

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to the Lacey Family on the death
of Adelaide Lacey, Ballyandrew & to The
Maguire Families on the death of Peggy
Bolger (nee Maguire), Waterford
R.I.P.

*May God grant them eternal rest and
console the bereaved in their grief.*

27th & 28th May 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: Ann Swaine & Eleanor Hawkins

FESTIVAL OF FERNS

JUNE BANK HOLIDAY 2023

Sunday 4th — Concert in St. Edan's
Cathedral and Fringe Music Trail. *Music
from local musicians including ACKO,
Ambassadors Stories and many more in
the local pubs of Ferns, followed by The
Allabair Trio concert in the cathedral.*

Monday 5th — Parade at 12pm from St.
Edan's Cathedral and Family Fun in
Ferns Castle. *A festive parade making its
way to Ferns Castle for an afternoon of
FREE entertainment for all.*

**Cathedral concert tickets €12 from
fernsvillage.ie**

**Further information from
ancientconnections.org**

HOMESTAY OPPORTUNITY

This coming June and July the Irish Archaeo-
logical Field School will be returning to Ferns
to continue their exciting excavations and
investigations into St. Aidan's monastery.
Joining them will be international students
who come to experience and learn all about
excavation, as well as Irish culture and herit-
age. People are being sought who maybe in-
terested in providing a homestay this coming
summer to the international students who will
be literally digging into our past to discover
more on St. Aidan's monastery. This is a fan-
tastic opportunity for both parties to experi-
ence and learn from each other while show-
casing our hospitality. This years programme
runs for 4 weeks from the 11th June - 8th July
and a weekly remuneration is provided. Ap-
plications are also open to Homes outside the
village. If you think you might be interested in
taking part please phone or text Barry at
0872783335.

**Lough Derg Pilgrimage
Tue. 4th July - Thurs. 6th July 2023**



Bus leaving St. Peter's
Square, Wexford at 6.30am
[via Enniscorthy (Abbey sq.)

Ferns (Bus Stop),
Gorey (Hospital)]

return to Wexford Thursday at 6.00 p.m.

Island Fee: **€80.00** Bus: **€70.00**

Bookings:

Fr. P. Cushen, Ferns, 053-9366152

Mobile 087-2387559

Ferns Parish Office 053-9366514

Bookings taken and **seat guaranteed.**

All Ireland Rosary Rally in Knock

The All Ireland Rosary Rally will take
place on Saturday June 3rd from 1pm in
Knock. It will include Holy Mass, the
Rosary, the Stations of the Cross and a
talk by Bishop Oliver Doeme. The Main
Celebrant for the Holy Mass is Archbish-
op Eamon Martin. A bus will leave from
Wexford 6.30am, Oylegate 6.45am, En-
niscorthy 6.55am, Ferns 7.10am, Ca-
molín 7.15am, Gorey 7.25am and Arklow
7.40am. Please book your seat early to
avoid disappointment. Ring Eileen : 087
9331809.

Patron Dates 2023

Ferns

4th June at 2pm

Clogogue

30th July at 2pm

Ballyduff

13th August at 2pm

Congratulations

To the children of Scoil Naomh
Maodhóg who received their First
Communion this weekend. We com-
pliment their teachers and parents for
their preparation.

Ferns Parish Office & Shop

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

Trocaire Collection

We thank you for your generosity so far.
The amount raised is **€2,,830.70** If you
wish to make a contribution it will al-
ways be most welcome.

Rosary for May

May and October are the two months dedi-
cated to Our Lady. The Rosary is recited
after 9.30a.m. Mass each morning, please
consider joining to pray for the month.

Ferns Prayer Group

Next Prayer Group meeting in
The Pastoral Centre on Wednesday 24th
May from 7.30 pm. to 8.30 pm.
Everyone Welcome.

Annual Patron

The Patron will take place on Sunday 4th
June at 2.00p.m. This is a special time in
every parish when we remember our dead
and in gratitude thank them for handing
on the faith to us. Let us do our best each
day to live it out by prayer, good works
and weekend Eucharist.

When cleaning your family grave do clean
your neighbours if there is no one alive to
do so. An active of true charity.

EXAMINATIONS PRAYER

O Great St. Joseph of Cupertino, who by
your prayers, did obtain from God, the
grace to be asked at your examination,
the only question you knew. Obtain for
me, success like yours in the examination
for which I am preparing, and in return, I
promise to make your name known and
cause it to be invoked. Amen.

Tombrack Litter Pick

The co-ordinators of the Tombrack clean-
up would like to thank everyone who
helped in the past few weeks -71 bags
were collected. We are asking homeowners
to continue cleaning the stretch of
road on both sides of their property in
order to keep our beautiful country litter
free. Many thanks to all volunteers who
have worked so hard. Your efforts make
an enormous difference.