



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in
Ferns for the week was **€537.10**
 The amount received for **Ballyduff**
 for month of March was **€331.00**
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for the
 month of March **€292.00**
Thank you for your generosity.

Stephen O'Leary Memorial 5K

The annual Stephen O'Leary Memorial 5K will be held on Sunday 30th April. This is a fun run/walk and the entrance fee is simply a donation on the day. It will be starting at 11.30 am sharp, from Monageer/Boilavogue GAA pitch and registration will be open from 10 am. All monies raised will be split between Monageer Community First Responders and Ferns Community First Responders. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please come along and support this very worthy cause.

Ferns Parish Office & Shop

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

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

'TAKE THE RISK FOR CHRIST' is the theme of the 'Year of Prayer and Promotion of the diocesan priesthood' that begins this Sunday, the 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations'. We include video promotions, articles and resources for parishes and faith communities. We have a homily, the newsletter insert and a talk on vocations given by Archbishop Rino Fisichella in Maynooth this week. We have articles that mark the feast days of St Athanasius and Blessed Edmund Rice and a video by Irish poet and theologian Paul Murray on Faith, Poetry and how God captures our attention. Finally, as April draws to a close, we focus on the Pope's intention for this month which was to pray for a culture of peace and non-violence. Check out these and other resources available at 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 **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, CLOOGUE

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. Cloogue: 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. 37

29th & 30th April 2023

(Vocation) 4th Sunday of Easter

2023 World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday April 30th

World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be observed on Sunday, April 30th, 2023. It is also known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because the Gospel is always from John chapter 10 where Jesus speaks of himself as being a caring shepherd. The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction when he asked us: "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). This year, a whole year is dedicated to prayer and promotion of the vocation to the diocesan priesthood. The theme of the year is entitled 'TAKE THE RISK FOR CHRIST'. Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood and religious life and the Church will always having pastors who care for God's people with the heart of Christ himself. This Sunday 30th April, at St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, Vocations Sunday will be marked by a holy hour of prayer led by Bishop Ger. All are welcome. Please come and pray with us.

YOUTUBE VIDEO FROM BISHOP PHONSIE CULLINAN, CHAIR OF THE VOCATIONS COUNCIL, IRISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE
<https://youtu.be/4gQwnmNaG0g>

Ballyduff National School Clothing Collection 16th May 2023

Please donate all your clean unwanted clothes also bed linen, towels, curtains, shoes, bags, belts and soft toys.

No duvets or pillows.

Please leave all donations in school bike shed before 16th May 2023

All support is greatly appreciated.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

30th April 2023 • Day of Prayer for Vocations

In the Middle East, it was the task of the shepherd to find water and pasture and to ensure safety. In your life who have been the people who nourished you and gave you security? For whom have you done this? Important to the shepherd's ability to give security to the sheep is the fact that he was known and familiar to them. They recognised his voice. Does this resonate in any way with your experience? We are familiar with the image of Jesus as the shepherd. The image of Jesus as the door (or gate) is not so familiar but is one that merits attention. Jesus presents himself as the door through which we pass and find life. What are the doors through which you have passed and found life: a situation, a place, a book, an experience, a person? For whom have you been a door to a richer life?

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 'All the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable'. Mother Church proposes them to us not to copy them, but so that we can be spurred on in our pursuit of the specific path that the Lord has chosen for each of us. *'The most important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts.'* Pope Francis, *Totum Amoris Est, Apostolic Letter on the Fourth Centenary of the death of Saint Francis de Sales (Veritas, 2023).*

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

29th & 30th April 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Ferdinand & Louise Ralph & their sons Sean & Thomas
Sean Donnelly, Castle Manor
8.30am: Stephen O'Leary, Ballymotey, Ferns

11.00am: Aidan (Moses) Furlong, Knockreagh

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Eddie Dreelan, Kiltown
Andy & Nancy Hayden, Monasootha

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Baby Fionn Ryan, The Square, Ferns

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

6th & 7th May 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15 pm: James Kearney, Tombrack
Jim Lawlor, Castle Manor
8.30am: Bridget Whelan, Clone Road, Ferns

11.00am: May Moore, Rosemary Heights & her father Paddy & mother Maggie & her brothers Billy, Jimmy, Mark, Aidan & sisters Susan & Kathleen
Nora & Andrew Morris Pairc Mhuire & deceased family members
Shelia Fitzpatrick, Coolbawn (Months Mind)

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Aidan Doyle, The Heath, Clonee
CLOLOGUE CHURCH
9.45am: People of the Parish

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
Ríán Thomas Nolan
who was baptised recently.

6th & 7th May 2023

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Ena Gray

8.30am: Theresa Nolan

11.00am: Ailish Davitt

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Mary Cullen & Dora Murphy

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Mary Sinnott & Tommy Davitt

**The Diocese of Ferns will be holding
Safeguarding Information Sessions
throughout May 2023**

(Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Reps are required to attend full day and refresher courses)

These sessions are **particularly aimed at staff and parishioners** involved in any capacity in the life of the church; secretaries, sacristans, cleaning teams, choir leaders, catechists, altar server supervisors, flower arrangers, readers, collectors etc. However, **all who are interested are encouraged to attend.**

This short session (approx. 90 minutes) will give you an insight into safeguarding in the context of the Catholic Church, and through the lens of our faith and community.

Topics will include: What is safeguarding? Why do we safeguard? Who safeguards?

Recognising, Responding, Reporting & Recording knowledge, suspicions and concerns of abuse

Wednesday 10th May, Talbot Hotel, Wexford at 7.00pm

Wednesday 17th May, Riverside Hotel, Enniscorthy at 7.00pm

Wednesday 24th May, Brandon House Hotel, New Ross at 7.00pm

Wednesday 31st May, Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey at 7.00pm.

Free to attend, no booking required.

For more information please contact:
Emma Fitzgerald on 053 9174972 or safeguarding@ferns.ie

First Friday

All invalids in the parish on the sick list will be visited on Wed. & Thursday 3rd & 4th May with Holy Communion.

**Conversations with Women in the
Bible on May 12th/13th 2023 –
CANCELLED.**

It is with great disappointment that we must cancel our Spring Conference which was scheduled for the Ballyvaloo Centre, Blackwater, Co. Wexford on Friday May 12th and the Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny on Saturday May 13th this year due to unforeseen circumstances. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Communion Dates 2023

Tombrack

6th May at 11am

Ferns

20th May at 11am

Irish Catholic Price Increase

As and from the 1st of May, The Irish Catholic will go up from €2.50 to €3.00. That will mean anyone who has paid for the year will need to pay an additional €18 to cover from May 5th to Dec.29th.

**DIOCESAN HOLY HOUR FOR
VOCATIONS – VOCATION SUNDAY
30th APRIL 2023**

On Sunday 30th April from 3 to 4pm, Bishop Ger will lead a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration in St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy. It is the Fourth Sunday of Easter also known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' or the 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations'. This year, the day marks the beginning of the year of prayer and promotion of vocations to the diocesan priesthood named 'Taking the Risk for Christ'. All are welcome. Please come and join us as we pray for vocations that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers to his harvest.

Rathnure Drive in Bingo

The Rathnure Drive in Bingo May Bank Holiday Special returns on Monday May 1st at 3pm in Rathnure Soccer Pitch! Big money to be won with over €3,350 in prizes. Snowball stands at €850. Great fun for all the family.

Congratulations

To the children of Ballyduff National School who received their First Communion this weekend. We compliment their teachers and parents for their preparation.

Trocaire Collection

We thank you for your generosity so far. The amount raised is **€1,887.40**. If you wish to make a contribution it will always be most welcome.

Rosary for May

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

On Saturday 13th May the Fatima group will hold a procession at 4.00pm. In the Church grounds.

**Day Trip to National Gallery and
National Museum on Saturday, May 6th.**

On offer is a trip by bus from Ferns to Dublin for a guided tour of the National Gallery where among other artworks, we will see the fabulous painting 'The Marriage of Strongbow & Aoife'. The painting depicts the union of Strongbow and Aoife with many layers of symbolism pointing to the complexity of the Norman 'invasion'. Afterwards a visit to the National Museum will involve a guided tour of artefacts associated with Ferns including the Breac Maoghóg and the Kavanagh Charter Horn. Having guided tours will enable us to explore the hidden features and messages within these works of art. Cost: €20pp includes bus rental and entry fees (does not include lunch) For more details and to book a place on the trip, please email: fernsheritageproject.ie

Patron Dates 2023

Ferns

4th June at 2pm

Clogogue

30th July at 2pm

Ballyduff

13th August at 2pm

Legion of Mary Conference

'Who is She?', a day long conference for Our Lady. Takes place May 13th in All Hallows campus, Dublin, from 9.30-16:30.

Cost €30, to RSVP or for more information, contact

mariaassumptadublin@gmail.com.