



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in  
**Ferns** for the week was **€545.00**  
The amount received for **Ballyduff**  
for month of July was **€319.00**  
The amount received from **Cloogue** for the  
month of July was **€362.20**  
*Thank you for your generosity.*

#### St. Monica Widow

##### Feast Day August 27th

One of the most famous mothers of all time, she persisted in prayer and example. She brought her son Augustine back, not only to the faith and to penitence, but to an illustrious life in the Church. She did not live to see her son's success, but died shortly after his conversion.

#### Prayer

*In Your mercy, Lord, You received the tears of St. Monica as she wept for her son. At the intercession of both mother and son, give us grace to weep for sin and to obtain Your forgiveness.  
Amen*

### THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

Bishop Ger has written a Pastoral letter to the people of the diocese on Lay Ministry that is posted this week. The Homily for this Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time presents the question: 'Who is Jesus Christ for me?' and reminds us that Christ builds his Church on our faith. We have a video talk given by former RTE broadcaster Sean O'Rourke on the gift and service of the priesthood and another from World Youth Day on hearing God's call. We have a feature on catechesis in contemporary society and an article that explains why the Church doesn't cancel people's baptismal records even when they leave the Church. Finally, we include some of St Augustine's best quotes ahead of his feast day on 28<sup>th</sup> August. Check out these and other resources available at [www.thehookoffaith.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.fernsparish.ie)



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 18, No. 2

26th & 27th August 2023

21st Sunday Ordinary Time

### Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th August 2023

1. This marks a turning point in the life of Jesus, and of the disciples. It is the first time that his disciples recognise him as the Messiah. Recall turning points in your own life when you came to some deeper understanding of who Jesus is.
2. 'Who do you say that I am?' This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us. In your heart of hearts, how do you answer this question?
3. Jesus praises Peter for his faith and comments that this was not his own doing but a gift of God. Perhaps there have been times when you have been more than usually conscious that faith is a gift. Be thankful for the gift you have received.
4. These are troubled times for the Church and the promise of Jesus that 'the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it' are an encouragement. What helps you to draw strength from this promise of Jesus? What signs of hope do you see in the Church today?

### A Thought for the Day

27th August 2023

Studies show that even natural colours like greens, blues and browns allow us to be more restful and less stressed. The older parts of our brain are more at home in a natural environment. The green of fields, meadows and forest canopies also remind the brain of an abundant food supply. Where there is green there is food, security, and order. Albert Einstein put it thus, 'The most important decision we make is whether we believe in a friendly or hostile universe.' When we walk through the forest the lush green shadows on the forest floor are supermarket shelves to more archaic systems that sate, reassure and sooth.

*Tom Gunning*

*Nature's Way – A Guide to Green Therapy (Beehive Books)*

### Schools Re-opening

We wish the Pupils, Teachers and Parents every blessing, happiness and success during the new school year. We welcome especially all new pupils and teachers as well as the existing students and teachers. The children in 2nd Classes will prepare for First Holy Communion, and the children in 5th and 6th Classes will be preparing for Confirmation. We pray that all parents and all of us will give them every encouragement and example. We wish all former students every blessing and success in their new schools. The following are the dates for re-opening

**Ferns:** Wednesday 30th August

**Ballyduff:** Tuesday 29th August

**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend**

**26th & 27th August 2023**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15 pm:** Paddy & Nan Kearney, Tincurry  
& Aidan & Winifred Mullet & deceased  
family members

Larry O'Connor, Pairc Mhuire

**8.30am:**

**11.00am:** Paddy Kelly, Ballyfermot

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Tom Furlong, Kilcloran

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** People of the Parish

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend**

**2nd & 3rd September 2023**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Sadie & Peter Nolan, Rectory  
Road, Enniscorthy formerly of  
Tinnashrule Ferns

Margot Kinsella, Efferogue,  
Anto Roche, Rosemary Heights,  
(Month's Mind)

**8.30am:**

**11.00am:**

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Mary Walker, Ballyduff

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** People of the Parish

**Ferns Castle**

Beautiful Ferns Castle is open for  
the Summer. Free entry and free  
guided tours. Enjoy the breath-  
taking views of the lovely coun-  
tryside and experience first-  
hand, the story of Ferns'  
extraordinary history.

**2nd & 3rd September 2023**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Brendan Kenny

**8.30am:** Maureen Kavanagh

**11.00am:** Joe Sinnott

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Margaret Maguire & Mary Fortune

**8.30am:** A Volunteer

**11.00am:** Ann Swaine & Michael Breen

**ONE DAY RETREAT LOUGH DERG  
September 23rd 2023**

Weekend trip to Donegal for the One Day  
Retreat on Lough Derg leaving Wexford  
on Friday September 22nd staying in  
Ballyshannon Co Donegal, returning to  
Wexford on Sunday September 24th.  
Two nights Dinner, Bed and Breakfast in  
the Imperial Hotel, Ballyshannon, coach  
travel and the day on Lough Derg €225  
per person sharing.

Further details and booking from Helen  
Kirwan 087/6817648.

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into the faith  
**Felix Anthony Moorehouse &  
Jake Matthew Giltrap Kearns**  
who were baptised recently.

**Sincere Sympathy**

Is extended to the family of Thomas Brennan,  
Monasootha and to the family of Bridie  
Breen, Pairc Mhuire who died recently  
R.I.P.

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

**Shopping in The Parish Office**

Ferns Parish Office has now got a  
card reader. We can now take  
contactless payments in the office.

**First Friday**

Invalids will not be attended this First  
Friday due to Fr Cushen's illness.

**St. Vincent De Paul Society  
Saturday 9th September 2023**

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

**Cost : Bus and Two Meals**

**Adults: €70.00**

**Children: €40.00**

To book your place contact:

**Sean Kinsella (053) 9123819**

**or Neil Foley (087) 9740120.**

**All are welcome.**

**Divine Mercy and Prolife Pilgrimage  
to Our Lady's Island**

On Tuesday 29th August. Commencing  
with Rosary around the island at 6pm.

Mass at 7.30pm. Bus from Arklow.

Enquiries to Mary: 086 055 2658

**Pastoral Letter on Lay Ministries  
from Bishop Ger Nash**

Bishop Ger has issued a Pastoral Let-  
ter inviting committed lay people to  
participate in training and formation  
for new ministries as part of a renew-  
al of mission to facilitate the future  
flourishing of faith in the Diocese.  
The roles will include Catechists,  
Pastoral Care Workers, Prayer Lead-  
ers, Parish Leaders and Facilitators  
with Accord. The letter is available  
near the doorway of the Church. In-  
formation sessions will be held in  
September.

***Bishop Ger has asked that we pray  
for fine weather for the harvest.***

**Prayer for fine weather**

***"God our loving Father, we know  
that you care deeply for us. We ask  
you to bless us with the good  
weather we so badly need at this  
time. Bless the work and efforts of  
all your people so that their endeav-  
ours may produce the results they  
need. Grant success to the work of  
our hands. We make this prayer  
through Christ our Lord, Amen."***

**Harvest Dues Envelopes**

Harvest Dues Envelopes are now ready  
for collection from the Parish Office.  
Thank you to the distributors for your  
cooperation in delivering the Harvest  
Dues Envelopes.

**Our Lady's Island – Pilgrimage 2023**

Sunday August 27th – Focus on Inner  
Freedom

Sunday September 3 – Recovery from  
Loss

Mass at 3pm on Island. Followed by  
Rosary Procession

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – A Time to Heal  
– 7.30pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm Ecumenical  
Service with Bishops Nash and Wilkinson  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September – 3pm Mass in  
Church

Official Closing of Pilgrimage at 7pm  
followed by Torchlight Procession

All services scheduled for outdoors will  
be weather permitting

Broadcast will also be available in Church  
Daily Mass during season will be at 3pm  
& 7.30pm in Church

Blessing of the Sick each Wednesday &  
Friday after 3pm Mass

Adoration after 3pm Mass Mon and Thurs  
with Benediction at 5pm

Availability of confessions will depend on  
priests present

Musicians will be taking part in daily  
Masses along with many invited speakers  
Parishes and Organizations are invited to  
come for individual pilgrimages (Prior  
Booking)

**Coffee Shop and Gift Shop staffed by  
voluntary workers open daily during  
Pilgrimage**

Web-Cam will be available from Island  
Altar. Daily services from Church Web-  
cam Ourladysisland.ie

Enquiries: Ann on 0876464198 or Kevin  
on 0862075027

Director of Pilgrimage: Fr Jim Cogley PP  
Lady's Island Phone 086 2471063

Pilgrims Welcome to Our Lady's Island  
Place of Pilgrimage for 1400 years