



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in
Ferns for the week was **€825.80**
 The amount received for **Ballyduff**
 for the month of **October** was **€572.50**
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for the
 month of **November** was **€265.00**
Thank you for your generosity.

Advent Prayer

O Jesus, living in Mary
 Come and live in us
 In the spirit of your sanctity
 In the fullness of your
 strength
 In the reality of your virtues
 In the perfection of your ways
 In the communion of your mysteries.
 Be, Lord, over every opposing power.
 In your own spirit to the glory
 of the Father.
Amen.



THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

'Gaudete Sunday' is the name given to the Third Sunday of Advent. It invites us to receive the real joy that comes from a deep friendship with Christ this Christmas and to welcome him with love. We have a homily, an article and inspiring quotes on the gift of joy that is born of faith. At a time when the birth of a child ought to be at the heart of Christmas, new developments on the status of unborn life in our county and country cannot be ignored or go unnoticed. Word on Fire explores the roots of the movement known as 'Wokeism' which is sweeping across the Western world especially at universities where certain truths are tolerated but not others. We have a video which explains Pope Francis new letter 'Laudate Deum' and finally, some more light and inspiration from the pen of Lorcan Brennan. Check out these and other resources available at www.thehookoffaith.com



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 18, No. 18

16th & 17th December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent, 17th December 2023

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know *about* Jesus but do we *know* him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?
2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you - a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' - announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness? Do these questions have any special relevance to you in the midst of the current situation in our world?

Candle Light Concert

In St. Aidan's Church Ferns on Monday 18th December.

Doors will open at 6.30 pm, Concert will start 7.30pm
 Featured Artists: Sandy Kelly, Dana, Chrissy Mac and guests.



Mass Times for Christmas

Ferns

Christmas Eve Vigil 6.15p.m.
 Christmas Day 8.30a.m. & 11.00a.m.

Ballyduff

Christmas Eve Vigil 7.30p.m. Christmas Day 9.30a.m.

Cloogue

Christmas Eve Vigil 8.00p.m. Christmas Day 9.45a.m.



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



Gaudete Sunday

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come")

of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

On the 4th Sunday we will light the final purple reminding us it is our last opportunity to repent of our sins.

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

16th & 17th December 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15 pm: Jim & Ellen Nolan, Kiltown,
Ferns

Liam Roche, Tombrack

8.30am:

11.00am: Min Quigley, Effernogue
Joan Fortune, Corah & deceased family
members of the Fortune & Kennedy
Families

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: People of the Parish

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am:

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

23rd & 24th December 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Pat O'Leary, Rosemary Heights,
Ferns

Pat & Kathleen Leacy, Rosario, Ferns

8.30am:

11.00am: Bridget & Bill Fortune,
Cappamore, Clondalkin

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm:

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Ted Kelly, Clologue

8.00pm: Marie Gleeson, Ballyfoley

**Advent & Christmas Penitential
Service this Sunday 17th Decem-
ber at 7.00pm in Ferns Church &
Bunclody Church at 8.00pm.**

**The Pope's Intention for December – For
persons with disabilities:** We pray that people
living with disabilities may be at the centre of
attention in society, and that institutions may
offer inclusive programmes which value their
active participation.

23rd & 24th December 2023

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Mary Cash

8.30am: Denis Kinsella

11.00am: Frances O'Toole

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Margaret Maguire & Mary Cullen

8.30am: Mary Fortune

11.00am: Volunteers

Confirmation Preparation Mass

This Saturday in Ballyduff at 7.30p.m.
we welcome confirmation children and
on Sunday at 11.00a.m. in Ferns.
Please keep them in your prayers.

Ferns Prayer Group

Next Prayer Group meeting especially for
the season of Advent will take place
in the Pastoral Centre on
Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm.
Everyone Welcome.

Irish Catholic

Money is now due for the Irish
Catholic. The Irish Catholic is €3 a week, or
€156.00 for the year. Please pay as soon as
possible into the Parish Office. If paying by
cheque please make payable to
Ferns Parish.

Ferns Parish Shop

*Stockist of Mass Cards, Mass Bouquets and a
selection of cards for any occasion. We also
stock a range of gifts including Statues, Ro-
sary Beads, Holy Pictures, Holy Medals &
Baptism gifts.*

**Christmas Gifts, Christmas Mass Bouquets,
and Candles now in stock.**

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Envelope Distributors

Christmas Dues Envelopes are now ready for
collection either in the Sacristy or
Parish Office.

**Thank you all for your help, it is
much appreciated.**

St Martin Magazine

Money is now due for the St Martin
Magazine. If anyone is interested please con-
tact Rita Plummer on 087 7738966.

**The Meaning and Importance
of the Nativity Scene**

The presence of the poor and the
lowly in the nativity scene re-
mind us that God became man
for the sake of those who feel
most in need of his love and who
ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, 'gentle
and humble in heart' (Mt 11:29), was born in
poverty and led a simple life in order to teach
us to recognise what is essential and to act
accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teach-
es that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by
wealth and fleeting promises of happiness.
From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek
yet powerful way, the need for sharing with
the poor as the path to a more human and
fraternal world in which no one is excluded or
marginalised.



Pope Francis, Admirable Signum

Blessing for a Christmas Tree

Lord God, amidst signs and wonders Christ
Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his
birth brings joy to our hearts and
enlightenment to our minds.

Let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we
welcome Christ among us; may its lights
guide us to the perfect light.

May all who delight in this tree come to the
knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Third Sunday of Advent
17th December 2023**

The Christmas story is very simple: it tells of
the birth of a child to poor parents with an
uncertain future. So what is it about the story
that holds such appeal, that has allowed so
many other stories and traditions to grow up
around it? Why does it have such a place in
our hearts? Perhaps it has to do with the way
it taps into our deepest longings, those things
we desire that can help us cope with just about
anything: love and trust, that we all have a
value and a unique dignity that lifts us up and
empowers us to move beyond ourselves and
to take the risk of reaching out to others, al-
ways trusting that God is present in the simple
stuff.

lecheiletrust.ie

Digital Help Hub

We can show you one to one: How to use a
range of devices, How to fill in digital forms,
How to use eGov and access multiple ser-
vices, like Mywelfare, the National Childcare
Scheme, Revenue, SUSI, How to use a range
of literacy resources and language learning,
whatever you would like to learn!

When and Where:

Enniscorthy Library: 10.30am-2.30pm on
Thursdays: 18th January, 1st & 22nd February,
21st March, 18th April & 16th & 30th May
2024.

Wexford Library: 10.30am-2.30pm on
Thursdays: 11th & 25th January, 8th & 29th
February, 14th March, 11th & 25th April, 9th
& 23rd May 2024.

Bunclody Library: 10.30am-2.30pm on
Thursdays: 7th March & 2nd May 2024.

FERNS!

Your Community Needs YOU. You can make
a difference. You can be a positive influence
in your community. You can leave a positive
impact on your community. Forgive want to
start a youth club in your area and we need
adult volunteer leaders and young people
members for that club. A youth club has huge
positive benefits to young people in the com-
munity, and volunteering offers great rewards
to the adults involved. For more information,
please contact Aidan Gleeson 0860674485,
Aidan.gleeson@forgive.ie

Grateful Thanks

To The Men's Shed for the beautiful Crib that
they made. A fantastic piece of craftsmanship
and a great addition to our Parish Church.

Envelope Contributions

If you wish, you may set up a standing order
and transfer your contribution periodically to
the parish account. Please put your Sunday
Envelope number on your donation or name.

Ferns Church No. 1 A/ C.

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE16 BOFI 9065 6678 0456 47

Ballyduff Church

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE32 BOFI 9066 0382 1179 14

Clologue Church

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE85 BOFI 9065 8260 5960 10