



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in
Ferns for the week was **€400.00**
 The amount received for **Ballyduff**
 for the month of **October** was **€572.50**
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for the
 month of **October** was **€254.00**
Thank you for your generosity.

St. Barbara, Patroness of Engineers
Feast Day December 4th

Prayer

*St. Barbara, pray for us, that through
 the power of God, even the weakest
 among us may be strong in love of Him.
 Amen.*

St. Nicholas, Patron of Children and
Sailors Feast Day, December 6th
Prayer

*St. Nicholas, pray for us that according
 to the precepts of our Divine Master, we
 may become as little children and so
 enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.*

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

Do you need as Saviour? Do we? Does the world? These are the questions that Advent raises because Christmas is about the birth of the Saviour. The homily for the First Sunday of Advent explores our need for saving and is accompanied by an article too. As COP28 is about to begin in Dubai, the significance of Pope Francis' presence at this crucially important conference is assessed. We include the Pope's prayer intention for December which is for people with disabilities. Philip Quirke offers a poem and a YouTube video features the faith journey through cancer of Mrs. Tammy Peterson, wife of famous psychologist Jordan Peterson. In the light of recent horrific attacks on women, we probe the question: 'Is the sexual revolution making women feel less safe?' Finally, as the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception, it invites all of us to see how God's grace makes human lives beautiful. 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



Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 18, No. 16

2nd & 3rd December 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers 2024 ROTA

Are now available for collection from the Parish Office or Sacristy.
 Thank you all for your contribution to the Church in 2023.

Feast of The Immaculate Conception B.V.M.

Mass Times

Holy Day of Obligation 8th Dec.

Ferns: Thursday 7th Vigil at 6.15pm &

Friday 8th at 9.30am

Ballyduff: Thursday 7th Vigil at 7.30pm

Cloogue: Friday 8th at 9.45 a.m.



Candle Light Concert

A Candle Light Concert will be held 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

Your support would be greatly appreciated. Tickets available in Parish Office.



Ferns Prayer Group

Next Prayer Group meetings especially for the season of Advent will take place in the Pastoral Centre on Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th December at 7.30pm. **Everyone Welcome.**

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is made of a circle of evergreen leaves with a purple ribbon, three purple candles and a rose/red candle. The circle represents that God has no beginning and no end. The evergreen leaves tell us that God does not change, he is always loving, forgiving and rewarding. The purple ribbon and candles denote penance, repentance from sin. The rose/red candle reminds us we are living in the love of God's presence. One purple candle is lit on the first Sunday, two purple candles are lit on the Second Sunday, two purple and rose/red candles are lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday or rejoicing Sunday) and all four candles are lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.



JESSE TREE



The Jesse Tree goes back through the family of Jesus. Various symbols are put on the tree recalling our salvation history e.g. a fresh root coming from the stump of a tree, a world globe, an apple & snake, a camel & tent in desert, two tablets of stone (10 Commandments), a rope, a ladder, a hammer & chisel, an ark, a rainbow, a lamb, an altar, sandals etc.

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

2nd & 3rd December 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15 pm: Paddy Doyle, The Square,
Ferns & his grandson Barry O'Malley
John Bolger, Carnew Road
Pat Dunbar, Ballylough

8.30am:

11.00am: Angela Swaine, 45 Coolbawn,
Ferns

Dominic Murphy, Milltown, Ferns

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm:

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Peter O'Leary, Ballyfoley &
deceased family members

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

9th & 10th December 2023

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: The Dunbar Family, Castle
Place & deceased family members
Kevin & Kathleen Rochford, Pairc Mhuire
& Elizabeth Ivory, Baramona

8.30am:

11.00am: Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick,
Jim Brooks, Ballyboy

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Jack Kehoe, Clonee formerly of
Oylegate

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Nell Kennedy, Clologue
John & Kitty Burke, Bolacreean &
Jim & Kathleen Campbell, Dublin

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Annual Church Door Collection will
take place on the weekend of **9th & 10th
Dec.** at all Masses in the three Parish
Churches. Envelopes will be available if
you wish to use them, these can be returned
to the Church. Please be generous.

9th & 10th December 2023

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Mary Cash

8.30am: Richard Cotter

11.00am: Irene O'Toole

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Ann Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Liz Villar & Patricia Keenan

**The Non-Violent Resistance
Programme (NVR)**

Are you walking on eggshells around your
child? The NVR programme is for parents
or carers who are experiencing child to
parent violence, intimidation, emotionally
abuse or controlling behaviours. The course
is one hourly sessions and is for 6/8 weeks
in Ferns Parish Parochial House or in your
home. Experienced NVR Practitioner offer-
ing support in managing conflicts in the
home environment and delivering life
changing skills to manage abusive behav-
iours. Please phone Reg on 089 4294602 to
book your place.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
Julia Elizabeth Kisieleska
who was baptised recently.

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.**



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.

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,
Boxed Christmas Cards and
Candles now in stock.**

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Rowe Street Church Choir

Invites you to celebrate the launch of our
new CD "De Regge" Mass of St. Michael
& Mass of Oliver Plunkett. Friday 8th
December at 7pm in Loch Garman Band
Hall (Friends Meeting House), High Street,
Wexford. **Guest Speaker:** Author and his-
torian Monica Crofton

St. Joseph's Vocations Society

Monthly meeting on Monday 4th
December at 2.00p.m. in Pastoral Centre.
New members always welcome.

Tombrack Christmas Concerts

On Wed. 6th & Thurs. 7th Dec, at
7.00p.m. in Tombrack Hall.
Baubles will be placed on the
Remembrance Tree for the departed.

Youth 2000 Ireland

Are having their annual Christmas retreat in
Dominican College, Newbridge, Co Kildare
on the 8th -10th of December for ages 16-
35. This promises to be a special re-
treat!! Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks
& Workshops, Fantastic music, Group ac-
tivities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Recon-
ciliation, prayer, Drama, Games & plenty of
time to chill out, meet new people and find
out what it means to be young & Catholic
today!! There are free buses leaving from
all over the country to the retreat. Donation
only. Find out more and register now on
www.youth2000.ie

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Candlelight Procession, 8th December.**

After 5.45 pm Mass, Rowe Street
Church. Leaves at 6.30 pm. Organised by
the Legion of Mary, Wexford.

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 multi-
ple services, like Mywelfare, the National
Childcare Scheme, Revenue, SUSI, How to
use a range of literacy resources and lan-
guage learning, whatever you would like to
learn!

When and Where:

Enniscorthy Library:

10.30am-2.30pm on Thursdays: 14th De-
cember, 18th January, 1st & 22nd February,
21st March, 18th April & 16th & 30th May.

Wexford Library:

10.30am-2.30pm on Thursdays: 7th Decem-
ber, 11th & 25th January, 8th & 29th Febru-
ary, 14th March, 11th & 25th April, 9th &
23rd May.

Buncloody Library:

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

**First Sunday of Advent,
3rd December 2023**

1. It is easy to interpret this passage as a
warning about impending death or disaster.
Recent wars and tragedies are examples.
Yet the coming of the Lord is not just the
moment of death, but any moment of grace.
Recall unexpected graces – good things that
happened when they were not anticipated.
2. Perhaps some of these were moments
when you were particularly alert and aware
of what was going on in you and around
you and this enabled you to be open to the
moment of grace. Recall the contrast with
moments when that alertness and awareness
were not present.
3. The servants were given charge of the
household 'each with their own job'. See
yourself as a person given a responsibility
within the household of God's people.
What is it like for you to see yourself trust-
ed in this way by God? What has it been
like for you when you have been shown
trust in this way by another person?
4. Jesus says that what he is saying to his
disciples he is saying to all. Have there
been times when you have been a messen-
ger of hope to others, encouraging them to
wait for a moment of grace. Who have been
the ones to encourage you?