



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€462.00**

The amount received for **Ballyduff** for
month of **November** was **€1108.00**

The amount received from **Cloogue** for
the month of **December** **€1102.60**

Thank you for your generosity

“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”

Matthew 28:19

St Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting on Monday afternoon
Jan. 15th, at 2pm in The Pastoral Centre.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time focuses on the first encounter between Peter and Jesus. We are told that Jesus ‘Looked hard at him’ as he gazed on Peter with mercy but with hope because he was the person he had chosen to lead the Church. We have a homily and a reflection on the Second Reading from Paul which highlights the value of the forgotten virtue of chastity and what it means to love with one’s whole body. Bishop Robert Barron explores how to be a person of greater love and the late Cardinal Suenens explains hope for the Church. We share the findings of yet another study which shows the social benefits of faith. Finally, we focus on the importance of Christian Unity Week which runs from 18th to 25th January. 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. 22

13th & 14th January 2024

Second Sunday Ordinary Time

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

14th January 2024

1. John pointed the disciples towards Jesus as the one they should follow. Remember the people in your life who have pointed you in a new and life-giving direction? Perhaps in some cases this may have involved directing you away from your association with them, e.g., leaving home, changing jobs, etc.
2. Where do you live? Jesus did not respond to the question by giving the disciples his address. He invited them to come and experience where and how he lived. Discipleship is a lived experience. What experiences have helped you to learn how Jesus lived, and what he was looking for in life? How has this attracted you to follow him?
3. What is your experience of gathering in small groups to learn to live like Jesus by listening to the gospel together? Where two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is there with them. What group experiences have helped your faith to grow?
4. Andrew did not keep the good news to himself but also invited his brother to join him in following Jesus. What is your experience of receiving, or giving, an invitation to join in some worthwhile venture?

Public Consultation Meetings

There are four meetings scheduled to facilitate consultation on the proposed Pastoral Plan and Pastoral Areas for our Diocese.

Wed 17th Jan – Camolin Parish Hall

Thurs 18th Jan – New Ross Pastoral Centre

Tue 23rd Jan – Bunclody Pastoral Centre

Tues 6th Feb – Blackwater Parish Hall

All meetings will commence at 7.30 pm

Ballyduff NS Enrolment— Ballyduff N.S are now enrolling for September 2024. We are a school where teachers, parents and the community work together to create the best place possible for our children to learn and grow in confidence. Visit us on our website www.ballyduffnswex.ie If you would like to enrol please: call 053 9383436 or email secretary@ballyduffnswex.ie to request an enrolment form to be sent to you.



Christian Unity Week

The week of prayer for Christian Unity commences each year on 18th January and concludes on 25th Jan. the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. Christ prayed ‘that they all may be one’. We pray that all Christians will work together to promote the message of Christianity, Justice, Love and Peace. Let us pray that all religious faiths will be respected and valued as they work to make the world a better place and give guidance to humanity to live good lives and have respect for all that is good. Last week we heard of the sad atrocities in France which were motivated by a lack of respect for others and their beliefs. Freedom is most important for all of us, freedom of expression, speech, faith, etc. but let us not insult others as we use our freedom. Also, let us never injure, damage or destroy life or property in our retaliation of what we do not like. Let us work for the values we cherish—Justice, Love, Peace and Freedom. Let us value the goodness of all.

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

**13th & 14th January 2024
Ferns Church**

6.15pm: Paddy Murray, Pairc Mhuire
Charlie & Mary Christopher, Coolbawn,
Ferns

8.30am: Owen Jordan, Coolbawn, Ferns

11.00am: Tommy Ryan, Coolbawn
Michael & Bridget Blackburn, Clone &
their sons George & Pat

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Tom & Sheila Doyle, Coolnaleen
Martin O'Leary, Coolnaleen

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Aidan Murphy, St. Aidan's,
Ferns

Joseph O'Leary, Ballymore

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

**20th & 21st January 2024
FERNs CHURCH**

6.15pm: Jimmy, Lizzie & Anna Maria
Mackey, Station Road, Ferns
Bridget Jordan, Ferns

8.30am: People of The Parish

11.00am: Tom Fortune, Coolbawn
Leo Maguire, Clone, Ferns

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Annette Nolan, Kilcloran,
Camolin

Josephine Murphy, Ballyandrew, Ferns

Prayers For: Margaret (Peg) Kehoe,
Raheen

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Sean Redmond, Ballymore
Mary & James Breen, Milesbog

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith
Aleah Grace Carty
who was baptised recently.

20th & 21st January 2024

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: Eleanor Hawkins & Christopher
Power

**Junior Infant Admission 2024
Scoil Naomh Maoldhóg, Ferns.**

Parent/Guardians who wish to enrol children into Junior Infants for September 2024 may download an application form from the school website <https://fernsschool.scoilnet.ie/blog/>, email fernsschool@gmail.com or contact the school office (053) 9366205 during the admission period (from 9am on January 11th to 3pm on February 1st 2024) to arrange collection of an Admission Form. Forms will also be made available through the local preschools / Montessori's. The Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Admission Policy and Annual Admissions Notice may be viewed on the school website.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18th-25th January 2024**

*You shall love the Lord your God and your
neighbour as yourself (Luke 10:27)*

Ferns Diocesan Ecumenical Service
St. Mary's Church of Ireland,
Enniscorthy.

Sunday 21st January 2024, 7.00pm

Preacher: Fr. James Murphy
(Parish Priest of Rosslare & Taggart)

All Welcome

If you would like to be included on the mailing list of Ferns Ecumenical Society to receive notice of our events during the year, please contact Fr James Murphy at 087 8152637 or frjamesmurphy@gmail.com

Ecumenical Quiet Day

In St. John of God Retreat Centre, Ballyvaloo,
on Thursday 1st February, 11.15am-4.00pm.

The day will be led by Fr. Tom Dalton on Centering Prayer. €30 including lunch and coffee on arrival. Please text or ring Fr. James Murphy on 087 8152637 if you wish to attend

THE TABLECLOTH

A Beautiful story . . . makes you understand that things happen for a reason .

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn , arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?"

The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials 'EBG' were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria .

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria

When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

This is a true story submitted by Pastor Rob Reid who says, "God does work in mysterious ways. I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today, to guide you and protect you as you go along your way. His love is always with you. His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares we know He will see us through. "So when the road you're traveling seems difficult at best, just remember I'm here praying and God will do the rest. Pass this on to those you want God to bless and remember to send it back to the one who asked God to bless you first."

When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you need. Take 60 seconds and give this a shot! All you do is simply say the following small prayer for the person who sent this to you Father, God, bless all my friends and family in whatever it is that You know they may be needing this day! May their lives be full of Your peace, prosperity and power as they seek to have a closer relationship with You. Amen.

Then send it on to ten other people, including the one who sent it to you. Within hours ten people have prayed for you and you caused a multitude of people to pray for other people.

Then, sit back and watch the power of God work in your life.

P. S. Ten is good, but more is better. 