



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was
€1,505.05

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

The amount received from **Clogogue** for
the month of November **€265.00**

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

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

On the Feast of the Lord's Baptism, we focus on who we became on the day we were baptised and how being a Christian is not just about being good but about becoming a beloved child of God in Christ. We have a homily and an article on the dignity that baptism confers and why our baptism is a continuous source of meaning. We have the Pope's prayer intention for January which is for the gift of diversity in the Church. As the Christmas season draws to a close, David Quinn imagines what the world would be like if the first Christmas never happened. Dr Andrew O'Regan shares his personal story and professional take on fatal foetal diagnoses and we have an article on how tragedy can be dressed up by imprecise and deceiving language. 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, CLOGOGUE

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. Clogogue: 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. 21

6th & 7th January 2024

The Baptism of the Lord

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. We also celebrate the beginning of Christ's public ministry which was to continue for three years. Christ at his Baptism was made known as the Messiah/Saviour. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, listen to him". Through our Baptism we became followers of Christ, members of his family, his witnesses in the world and heirs to the kingdom of heaven. If we serve Him faithfully we will enter his kingdom. He has promised **"The one who bears witness to me before people, I will bear witness to that person before my Father in Heaven."**

Whenever we come to this Church, be it Sunday or a week day we gather as a family, the family of Christ. As we come here we can see various people involved in various ministries - **we might ask** - Am I actively involved? Could I be actively involved? As Jesus said "Be doers of the word, not hearers only", also "The Word of God is something alive and active." We can be active members of Christ's family or we can be just passive and expect others to do all the service needed in our Church. It is people involvement in their Church that makes it active. Do consider helping.

As St. Paul in Corinthians said, "There is a variety of gifts, ... and a variety of services to be done." Could you perform some of these services by giving of your time and talents, e.g. Minister of Word or Eucharist, Distributor of Newsletter, Distributing Envelopes in your area, (there are some areas needing distributors, if you could help it would be tremendous), Choir member, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a regular basis in the Convent, Prayer Group, Visiting the Sick, St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Visiting the Sick and Housebound, etc.

Continue to serve others in whatever way you can - Be servants of the servants of God. Many are and are getting tremendous satisfaction from doing so.

BAPTISM

There are three forms of Baptism as taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Water - The usual form which is performed by the Priest in the Church.

Blood - When someone suffers Martyrdom because of the intention to be baptised.

Desire - Parents have the desire to have their child baptised but the baby dies before the Church ceremony takes place.

All forms make us members of Christ's Family and heirs to heaven.



**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

6th & 7th January 2024

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Tommy Redmond, Enniscorthy Road

Mary Byrne, Rosemary Heights
8.30am: Catherine Dwyer, Rockville & Brigid Errity, Pairc Mhuire

11.00am: Margaret Nolan, Tombrack Mary Breen, Milltown

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Joe Crowley, Tinnashrule
Greg Murphy, Kilbora, Camolin

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am: Paddy & Mary Byrne, Ballinakill & their son Sheamie

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next 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

New Parishioners

If you are new to our parish you are most welcome, we wish you well and hope you will be delighted to be part of our parish and community. If you would like to support our church please call to the parish office and put your name on the list.

13th & 14th January 2024

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Brendan Kenny

8.30am: Maureen Kavanagh

11.00am: Joe Sinnott

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Ann Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Ann Swaine & Eleanor Hawkins

**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 it is very much appreciated.

St Martin Magazine

Money is now due for St Martin Magazine. The cost will be €14.40 for the year. Anyone interested in ordering a copy please contact Rita on 087 7738966

**Diocesan Lay Ministry:
Beginning a Journey**

This weekend as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, thirty candidates for lay ministry gather in Maynooth with their formation team to mark the beginning of a six-month discernment period. This is just one step to prepare and form lay people for leadership roles in catechesis and pastoral care. We wish them well in their discernment and pray for the success of this vital mission for our Diocese.

Ferns Prayer Group

Ferns Prayer Group will be meeting in the Pastoral Centre on Wednesday 10th January at 7.30 p.m.

All are very welcome.

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to the family of Enda Morris, Raheny and formerly of Ferns Lower R.I.P. and to the family of Eddie Davitt, Carrigeen R.I.P. who died recently.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. May God and Our Lady console the bereaved.

**Thought for the day
The Baptism of the Lord
7th January 2024**

The sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession, for me is a humbling experience. I simply have to recognise that I have faults. I have fault lines that run through me causing things to happen that I'd prefer not to happen. The sacrament is basically me handing all these matters over to God and asking for his grace as I live with my faults. The only good thing about them is that they throw me back on God's love. *'The sacraments are all to do with the physical celebrations by which divine life penetrates our human histories.'* (James Alison, *Knowing Jesus*)

**Alan Hilliard, Dipping Into Life
(Messenger Publications)**

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humour;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

With the wisdom to recognise them when they come.

**The Baptism of the Lord
7th January 2024**

1. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?

2. 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Bring to mind experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Remember these experiences with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.

3. It is easy to lament the growing secularisation in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ-event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the church today?

4. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He acknowledges that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.

**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.