



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€598.20**

The amount received for **Ballyduff** for
month of **December** was **€799.00**

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

Thank you for your generosity

FORMS OF FRIDAY PENANCE DURING LENT

The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance: Abstaining from meat or some other food; Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking; Making a special effort at involvement in family prayer; Making a special effort to participate in Mass on Fridays; Visiting the Blessed Sacrament; Making the Stations of the Cross; Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy; Helping the poor, sick, old or lonely.

*From the statement on Friday Penance
issued by the Bishops' Conference, 2011*

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

'Through the desert God leads us to freedom' is the title of Pope Francis' message for Lent this year that begins this Wednesday. To mark 'World Day of the Sick' we have a newsletter insert on people living with illness. Last Friday, 2nd February was 'World Day for Consecrated Life' and to mark it, we caught up with Sr Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St John of God, for an interview. We have news of a Vocations webinar that probes a Church response to the recent RTE programme 'The Last Priest in Ireland'. We include a poem on war and peace by Philip Quirke and a YouTube video by Sr Mary Grace – an inspirational woman of faith and hope. Finally, some prayers and resources for the 'Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse' which takes place on Friday 16th February. 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. 26

10th & 11th February 2024

Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time

SEASON OF LENT



On Wednesday next we commence the season of Lent. The day prior to Lent is called Shrove or Pancake Tuesday. Both titles have their own significance. We call it 'Pancake Tuesday' because in the past the Fast during Lent was very strict and before the season started the people used up the surplus food in the home, which at the best of times was scarce and the variety rather lacking. The normal food in the house was milk, flour, eggs, butter, and salt. They used these which are the ingredients for pancakes so that they would not be tempted to over indulge in food during Lent. It was called 'Shrove Tuesday' because it was the last day before Lent to go to confession to be shriven (absolved) of their sins. In the past this was the great day for going to confession and then the people did penance for their sins for the next forty days. We are given this great Season of Lent to do **Penance** for our sins, to **Pray** and give **Alms**. We have the forty days because Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days and nights to prepare himself for his three years of public ministry, so Jesus was 30 years of age at that time, as he died at the age of 33 years. Please make an effort to follow the example of Jesus by making a few resolutions to Pray, Fast and give Alms. Stations of the Cross, will take place in Ferns on Mondays at 7.00p.m. Also you could visit the Pastoral Centre where there is daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time , 11th February 2024

World Day of the Sick • Day of Prayer for Temperance

1. Jesus' compassion for people suffering was an outstanding characteristic of his ministry. We see the healing power of God at work through him. Recall times when the compassion of others has had a healing effect on you. Remember also when your compassion towards someone in trouble brought them hope, healing or strength.
2. 'If you choose, you can make me clean'. Our choice is a key factor in how we affect others. We cannot choose to have no impact on the people in our lives. Even a choice to do nothing has an effect. When have you been particularly aware of the importance of your choice to be a positive influence on another?
3. Lepers were forced to live away from others. The leper's cure meant that he was also readmitted to contact with the community. Perhaps you recall people who were once ostracized being brought back into family or community. Who was the Jesus person who helped this healing to take place?
4. The joy of the leper on being healed was such that he could not keep the good news to himself. Bring to mind occasions when you were so filled with good news that you could not keep it to yourself.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday

Mass in Ferns Church at **9.30am** and **7.00pm** with distribution of Blessed Ashes.

A day of Fast and Abstinence.

Mass in Ballyduff Church at **7.30pm** with distribution of Blessed Ashes.

Mass in Cloogue Church at **9.45am** with distribution Blessed Ashes.

Stations of the Cross will take place in Ferns Church on Monday evenings during Lent at 7.00p.m.

Mass in Cloogue Church will take place on **Tuesday** mornings at **9.45a.m.**

Mass in Ballyduff Church will take place on **Wednesday** evenings at **7.30p.m.**

Please take home a Trocaire Box for Lent, your support is vital.

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

**10th & 11th February 2024
Ferns Church**

6.15pm: Tracy Parker & her husband
Michael Barnard
Myles Collier, Ballintore
8.30am: People of the Parish
11.00am: John & Jenny Fowler,
Baylands
Eddie Davitt, Carrigeen (Months Mind)
BALLYDUFF CHURCH
7.30pm:
CLOLOGUE CHURCH
9.45am: Patrick & Bridget Leacy,
Clogogue & their son John

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

**17th & 18th February 2024
FERN'S CHURCH**

6.15pm: Johnny Byrne, St. Aidan's
Betty Dunbar, Ballylough
Peadar Leacy, Aldercourt & formerly of
Boolavogue
8.30am:
11.00am: Ned Kinsella, Effernogue
Patrick O'Toole, Ballingale
BALLYDUFF CHURCH
7.30pm:
CLOLOGUE CHURCH
9.45am: People of the Parish

Divine Mercy Conference

RDS Dublin Saturday 24th February
To book a place on the bus,
please contact 086 2608454.

Ecumenical Service led by Bishop Adrian Wilkinson and Bishop Ger Nash in St. Mary's Church of Ireland, ENNISCORTHY on Sunday 18th February at 7.00pm. All most welcome.

17th & 18th February 2024

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Mary Cash

8.30am: Carmel Doyle

11.00am: Maura Kelly

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Mary Cullen & Dora Murphy

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Mary Sinnott & Tommy Davitt

Congratulations to the children of St. Kevin's School, Tombrack on receiving the Sacrament of First Penance on Wednesday last. Well done all.

**Worldwide Day of Prayer for
Survivors and Victims of
Sexual Abuse**

This year's Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse will take place on 16 February, the first Friday of Lent. The Day of Prayer is an initiative of Pope Francis and was first marked in Irish dioceses in 2017. Blessed candles will be lit in parishes across the country as a reminder to the faithful of the need for atonement and to symbolise repentance, light in the darkness and hope. These 'Candles of Atonement' will be lit in diocesan cathedrals and churches on the Day of Prayer, and thereafter during the celebration of Mass and other liturgies. The lighting of the 'Candle of Atonement', and the following prayer, are based on the very moving Penitential Rite composed and prayed by Pope Francis at the final Mass of the 9th World Meeting of Families on 26 August 2018 at Phoenix Park, Dublin, when the Holy Father implored the Lord's mercy for the crimes of abuse and asked for forgiveness.

Welcome

Today we welcome Bishop Ger who will celebrate Mass in Ferns at 11.00a.m.
It will be the 'Grow in Love Mass'.

**Thought For the Day
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
11th February 2024**

**World Day of the Sick • Day of Prayer
for Temperance**

The word temperance, like the word fortitude, is perhaps another of those words that are not used much in ordinary conversation. But the idea of temperance is suggested in some words that are used in everyday speech. *Balance* is one of those words, I think. We speak of wanting to lead 'balanced' lives, of wanting our judgments to be 'balanced,' our big decisions in life to be the result of 'balanced reflections.' We speak of a person being unbalanced. We speak of balanced diets. We try to balance our professional lives with our personal lives. We know what people mean when we hear these phrases. Balance is something like the virtue of temperance.

agnellusmirror.wordpress.com

**NOTICE TO ENVELOPE
DISTRIBUTORS**

The Ferns Weekly Envelopes for 2024 are now available for distribution, we would be grateful if all distributors would collect them at their convenience.



The Pope's Monthly Intention

For the Terminally Ill: We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

**HISTORY OF WORLD DAY OF THE
SICK 11TH FEBRUARY**

In 1992, Pope John Paul II established the day to urge people to pray for individuals who are ill and their caretakers. The pope showed signs of Parkinson's disease in 1991, but it wasn't verified until 2001, therefore, it's notable that he opted to establish the World Day of the Sick barely a year after his diagnosis. In his apostolic letter "Salvifici Doloris", the pope wrote extensively on the subject of suffering and considered that it has always been a redeeming process through Christ. On February 11, 1993, the first World Day of the Sick was observed. Our Lady of Lourdes, a term referring to the Virgin Mary in honor of apparitions alleged to have been seen in and around Lourdes, France, by a little girl named Bernadette Soubirous, is also celebrated on February 11. Bernadette was recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church a few years later. Because numerous pilgrims and tourists to Lourdes, France, claimed to have been healed at the Marian Sanctuary through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, he chose the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes as the day of the observance. The pope also paid homage to the Harissa sanctuary in Lebanon. The World Day of the Sick had a particular significance in 2005 because the ailing pope died on April 2 of that year. As he lay dying in St. Peter's Square in Rome, a large crowd assembled to pray for him. On this day in 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation, citing his poor health as the cause for his departure. On World Day of the Sick, people all across the world take the opportunity to pray for the sick and those who labour tirelessly to alleviate their pain. Faith-based organizations commemorate this day by providing medicines, food, and spiritual guidance to the sick.

LOURDES

Ferns Diocesan Pilgrimage 2024, Led by Bishop Ger Nash

Pilgrimage Director: Fr. Odrán Furlong, Spiritual Director: Fr. Brian Broaders

€865 pps 16th—21st May 2024

Only €200 deposit required to book, single room supplement €190.

Further details and booking form please contact Marian Pilgrimages: 01 8788159.

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Renew our spirit of love, forgiveness and peace.

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