



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€338.50**

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

St. Agnes — Virgin, Martyr

Patroness of Youth, Feast Day January 21st

Virgin, child martyr, who refused to surrender her purity in spite of many inducements and threats. She is depicted holding a lamb as a symbol of her innocence. Each year on her feast two lambs are blessed at her basilica, from the wool of which is woven the Pallia sent to the newly created archbishops by the Pope.

Prayer — St. Agnes, model of purity, pray that through the weakest instruments, God may triumph over the powers of hell. Amen.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

This Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is designated as the annual 'Word of God Sunday' that places a special emphasis on the importance of God's Word for Christian life. We have reflections, articles and a homily for this Sunday that celebrates the Scriptures that feed us, inspire us and challenge us too. Catholic Schools Week takes place this year from 21st to 27th January with the theme of 'Catholic Schools – Communities of Service'. We have resources and the theme for each day.

The Diocesan Director of Pastoral Development has an article on the benefits of grouping parishes in a Pastoral Area.

Finally, we have articles and features on St Paul for the feast of his conversion and on St Frances de Sales on his beautiful insights into the love of God. 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. 23

20th & 21st January 2024

Third Sunday Ordinary Time

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 21st January 2024 • Sunday of the Word of God • Catholic Schools Week begins today

1. 'The time is fulfilled' – this is a decisive moment in the life of Jesus. His public ministry is about to begin. Recall turning points in your own life when something new happened and with hindsight you can say the time was ripe for it to happen, 'the time was fulfilled'.
2. 'Repent and believe the good news'. Jesus was not preaching a new doctrine, but calling for a change of heart, as a response to the good news of the gospel message. A new way of understanding God leads to a conversion in how we relate to God, a change of heart. A growth in awareness of who we are can lead us to a new level of self-confidence, another change of heart. Can you recall times when 'good news' led you to a change of heart?
3. The Spirit of God who was at work in Jesus calling the disciples continues to work in our day and in our lives. That is why the gospel message is one of GOOD NEWS. When has your understanding of the gospel message led you to a different style of life? Who was the 'Jesus person' through whom the call came to you? To whom have you been a 'Jesus person' in this way?
4. This Sunday is called the SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD' in order to emphasise the role and importance of the word of God in our lives. What has helped you to discover the Scriptures as a source of encouragement, enlightenment, and renewed faith? Is there something extra you could do now to enhance your appreciation and love of the word of God.

Public Consultation Meetings

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

Tues 23rd Jan – Bunclody Pastoral Centre (especially for Ferns, Bunclody & Kilrush)
(Sorry for last week's mistake of encouraging people to go to Camolin no need to go again.)

Tues 6th Feb – Blackwater Parish Hall
All meetings will commence at 7.30 pm

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**

20th & 21st January 2024

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm: Jimmy, Lizzie & Anna Maria
Mackey, Station Road, Ferns
Bridget Jordan, Ferns
Terry Moloney, London & Glynn,
Barntown

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,
Mileshogue

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

27th & 28th January 2024

Ferns Church

6.15pm: Sean Murphy, Crory
William Bolger, The Dell, Ballycarney
Enda Morris, Raheny & formerly of Ferns
Lower (Months Mind)

8.30am:

11.00am: Noel Killeen, Pairc Mhuire and
his brother Sean Killeen, Coolbawn,
Ferns whose month's mind is at this time
John Walsh, Effernogue

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Pat Hayden, Ballyduff
Mary Ann Dunne, Mount Grange, The
Harrow

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am:

27th & 28th January 2024

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Mary Cash

8.30am: Richard Cotter

11.00am: Mark Ryan

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Margaret Maguire & Mary Fortune

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Ann Swaine & Liz Villar

Junior Infant Admission 2024

Scoil Naomh Maodhóg, 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 & Tagoat)

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, Ballyva-
loo, on Thursday 1st February, 11.15am-
4.00pm. The day will be led by Fr. Tom Dal-
ton 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

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th -25th January 2024

We Are One With You

O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you.

You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.

Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts. Help us to realise that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection.

O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit. Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and which makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome. Love is victorious.

Thomas Merton

Are you caring for a loved one at home with additional needs? A spouse, partner, child, close relative or neighbour? Then you are a family carer! Become a member of Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's 500,000+ family carers nationwide. Contact 057 93 70221 and hear how we can support you or for more info visit www.familycarers.ie.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith

Larry Patrick Connors

Mary Cash

who were baptised recently.

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

Foróige

Your Community Needs YOU

FERNS, Co. Wexford

You can make a difference

You can be a positive influence in your community

You can leave a positive impact on your community

Foróige 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 community, and volunteering offers great rewards to the adults involved.

For more information, please contact

Aidan Gleeson 0860674485

Aidan.gleeson@foroige.ie

Thank you for your time

Wexford Mental Health Association Annual Church Gate Collection.

Wexford Mental Health Association will be holding its annual church gate collection on Saturday and Sunday the 27th and 28th January next at all masses in Ferns, Clogogue and Ballyduff.

Your continued support is as always very much appreciated.

Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools:

Communities of

Service 21st-27th January

Monday:

Service in our Community of Friends

Tuesday:

Service in our School Community

Wednesday:

Service in our Family Community
(Grandparents' Day) 11.30 Mass Ballyduff)

Thursday:

Service in our Local Community

Friday:

Service in our Faith Community

Ferns Community Project C.L.G.

Will hold an A.G.M. on Wednesday,
7th February 2024 at 8 pm in St. Mogue's
Cottage, Ferns, Co. Wexford. All welcome.