

 **Sunday Envelope Collection**
 The amount received for **Ferns** for the week was **€534.00**
 The amount received for **Ballyduff** for month of January was **€317.20**
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for the month of January **€400.45**
Thank you for your generosity

Day Retreat for Men
 Saturday 9th March
 Fr Mark Byrne
 Legion of Mary Room, Francis Street,
 Wexford Booking essential. Phone: Keith
 086 8899123. Includes Light Lunch

Mental Health Association
 Would like to thank you all very Much for your generosity. The following was collected from each parish:
Ferns €600.80, Cloogue €61.30
& Ballyduff €101.80

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK
 'Understanding the Mental Health Crisis' is the title of the latest video interview with Bishop Robert Barron that explores the reasons why so many are struggling with mental health today and what the Church can do about it. The homily for the Second Sunday of Lent unpacks the story of the Transfiguration when Jesus' divine identity is revealed. Fr Sean McDonagh, one of the leading contributors to a theology of creation, offers an article on climate change. Senator Michael McDowell challenges misinformation about the upcoming referenda and provides clarity about they are about. We have news of the re-launch of the 'Called to More' website and an article by Bishop Phonsie Cullinan. Finally, an introduction to an inspirational speaker Msgr. James Shea who ponders the weight of our brokenness. 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. 28

24th & 25th February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent



SEASON OF LENT

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.**

Also you could visit the Pastoral Centre where there is daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

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



Second Sunday of Lent 25th February 2024

1. Some special spiritual experiences are well nigh impossible to describe in words. The Transfiguration was one of these. Jesus had a new and deeper insight into his relationship with his heavenly Father, one that would sustain him through what lay ahead of him. Have you had WOW moments that you found hard to describe to others? How have these sustained you in difficult times?
2. It can be both scary and wonderful to witness transformation in another, especially a person who is close. At times parents get a taste of this when a child's talent blossoms and is recognised by the child. We may also experience it when a dear friend recognises s/he is in a blind alley and gives up an addiction.
3. 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him.' Peter, James and John were particularly close to Jesus, but they were not good at listening to Jesus, especially when he spoke of the painful road of servant discipleship. Jesus is the one we must listen to, even when his message is hard to hear. It is in this message we find life. When have you found this to be true?
4. Strangely this instruction came to the disciples when they were confused and 'in a cloud'. Perhaps you recall a moment of insight coming to you at a time when you were confused.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE ----- A SIX WEEK PROGRAMME

'The Word of God is alive and active'. It relates to us and to our lives today. A six-week programme for beginners and those who want to deepen their understanding of the Bible.

Presented by Fr. Jim Finn

When: Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30 beginning on **February 29th**

Venue: St. Peter's Pastoral Centre

To Register: Ring 0874475434 or email stephanicobr@gmail.com.
 €10 payable on first evening.

Confirmed in Christ



Confirmation Ceremony in Ferns

Confirmation Ceremony will take place on Friday 1st March for the candidates of Scoil Naomh Maodhóg at 11a.m. in Ferns Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered by **Very Rev. Paddy Cushen P.P. & Rev Patrick Stafford P.E.**

We wish all the candidates every blessing and good wishes on their special day.

Confirmed in Christ



Mass Time & Intentions

This Weekend

24th & 25th February 2024

Ferns Church

6.15pm: Billy Cash, Pairc Mhuire

8.30am:

11.00am: Bridget Davitt, Craan

Tommy Davitt, Crory

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Tom, Aidan & Pat O'Leary,

Clonee Lane

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am:

Mass Time & Intentions

Next Weekend

2nd & 3rd March 2024

FERNS CHURCH

6.15pm:

8.30am:

11.00am: Agnes & Michael Andrews

Junior, Pairc Mhuire

Jim Moulds, Coolbawn & Baby

Anna Mairéad

Maura & John Foley, Coolbawn

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm:

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am:

Confirmation Ceremony of Light

The ceremony will take place replacing the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass at 7.30pm in Ballyduff and 11.00a.m. Mass in Ferns Sat. & Sunday 24/25th Feb.

Tombrack School Clothing Collection

All items of clean clothing can be dropped to the Community Garden by Friday 1st March.

2nd & 3rd March 2024

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Ena Gray

8.30am: Theresa Nolan

11.00am: Ailish Davitt

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Marie Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Michael Breen & Patricia Keenan

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.



Synodal Journey

The continued success of the Synodal journey already begun in our Diocese requires on-going engagement in our parish communities. As part of this journey seven people will be chosen which will include one Priest and one Religious who will undertake training as facilitators to work with parishes and other groups in the Diocese to continue to develop Synodality in the life and mission of the Church in Ferns. This training will begin in April. We are also currently preparing two documents one on best practice of synodality in the diocese and the second on How can we imagine the life of the Church in Ireland where people are co-responsible for the Church's mission in different ways. These documents have to be submitted by March 25th and they will be sent as part of the Irish National Synodal Team to Rome for the Synod meeting in October next. Our Holy Father Pope Francis continually reminds us that there can be no Synod without prayer. Please continue to pray for our Synodal journey.

First Friday

All invalids in the parish on the sick list will be visited on Thursday & Friday 29th February & 1st March with Holy Communion.

Thought for the Day Second Sunday of Lent 25th February 2024

Jesus was 'able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attraction full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things.' The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.' If 'the universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely... there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face.' The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?

**Laudate Deum 64-65, Pope Francis
(Veritas Publications)**

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**

Do You Want To Fast This Lent? In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words; be silent and listen.

Family Carers Ireland

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.

Glasses Found

A pair of glasses were found in the Church. Can be collected from Sacristy or Parish Office.

Sincere Sympathy

Is extended to The Cahill Family on the death of their father, Rupert Cahill, Pairc Mhuire who died recently.

R.I.P.

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

LOURDES

Ferns Diocesan Pilgrimage 2024, Led by Bishop Ger Nash

Pilgrimage Director: Fr. Odhrán 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.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGES

Renew our spirit of love, forgiveness and peace.

38-39 Pearse St., Dublin 2—01 8788159, NI (028) 95680005

WWW.MARIAN.IE.