



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€1377.40**

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*

### 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! Be-  
come 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](http://www.familycarers.ie).

### Youth 2000 (16 to 35 year olds)

Prayer meeting in Bunclody Parish Church,  
Tuesday 30th January at 6.30pm.  
Refreshments after in Pastoral Centre

### THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

'Who do you think you are?' is a deep  
question that confronts each of us. In an  
article, we probe an answer using and  
propose that the only way to know our-  
selves is by looking into the mirror of  
Christ and the Christian story. The homi-  
ly for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary  
Time sees Jesus set about his work of  
exorcising unclean spirits – a healing  
ministry that continues and is so badly  
needed today. Philip Quirke has com-  
posed a beautiful morning offering and  
Bishop Barron offers seven ways to be-  
come spiritually great. Bishop Kevin  
Doran points out why the new ethics  
guide of the Medical Council is deeply  
flawed. Finally, we have articles to mark  
the feast days of St Aidan of Ferns, St  
John Bosco, St Brigid and St Thomas  
Aquinas. Check out these and other re-  
sources available at  
[www.thehookoffaith.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

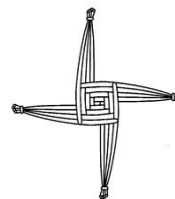
**Ferns St. Vincent de Paul:** Tel: 086 7219303

**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](http://www.fernsparish.ie)



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 18. No. 24

27th & 28th January 2024

Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

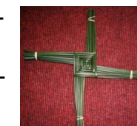


### FEAST OF ST. AIDAN

This Tuesday 30th January will be the feast of St. Aidan the Patron Saint  
of our Parish and Diocese. Aidan, was born in Breifne (Cavan) and es-  
tablished his chief Church at Ferns in Ui Cinsealaigh in 598AD and  
founded many Churches in the area. He was the first Bishop of the Dio-  
cese of Ferns. Aidan was renowned for his generosity and kindness.  
He died in the year 626AD.

### ST. BRIDGET

On Thursday 1st February we celebrate St. Bridget's Day. She was re-  
nowned for her hospitality, alms giving and care of the sick. She was  
born in 454 of a wealthy family. She became a religious and was guid-  
ed by St. Mel. Others followed her example and joined her in the  
founding of a Monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop  
Conleth. She died in 524. She is the Patron Saint of Kildare and Leighlin and sec-  
ondary Patron of Ireland. Making a St. Brigid's cross is one of the traditional rituals  
in Ireland to celebrate the beginning of early spring, 1st February. The crosses are  
made of rushes that are pulled rather than cut. They are hung by the door and in the  
rafters to protect the house from fire and evil.



### FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord takes place on Friday 2nd of  
February, it is also known as Candlemas Day. If you would like to have  
candles blessed, please leave them in Ferns Church or the Parish Office  
on/or before Thursday 1st February.

We will also have the candles for sale in the Parish Office.

### FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

On Saturday 3rd February we celebrate the feast of St. Blaise.  
**There will be Mass at 9.30 a.m. and 6.15 p.m. and we will have  
the Blessing of Throats before and after Mass and also after  
Masses on Sunday.** We ask God's blessing through the intercession  
of St. Blaise on our throats. Let us be conscious of our throats and  
how we use them. Let us thank God we can breathe, swallow, sing,  
talk, etc.; through the use of our throats. Be thankful for the food we  
eat and be conscious of the words we use, let us give thanks to God  
for His gifts.



**Mass Time & Intentions  
This 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:**

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend**

**3rd & 4th February 2024  
FERNs CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Myles Jordan, Carnew Road  
Declan Murphy, Ballymorgan  
Paddy Moynihan, Ballamon

**8.30am: People of The Parish**  
**11.00am:**

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Shay, Girlie & Declan O'Neill,  
Monasootha

Andy Doyle, Monasootha

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:**

**Public Consultation Meetings**

There is one meeting scheduled to facilitate consultation on the proposed Pastoral Plan and Pastoral Areas for our Diocese. Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – Blackwater Parish Hall

***This meeting will commence at 7.30 pm***

**3rd & 4th February 2024**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Brendan Kenny

**8.30am:** Dermot O'Brien

**11.00am:** Frances O'Toole

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Maire Bernie & Mary Fortune

**8.30am:** A Volunteer

**11.00am:** Eleanor Hawkins & Mary Sinnott

**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](mailto:fernsschool@gmail.com) or contact the school office (053) 9366205 during the admission period (from 9am on January 11<sup>th</sup> to 3pm on February 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into the faith  
**Naiose Redmond**  
who was baptised recently.

**Sincere Sympathy**

Is extended to Mary Sinnott & family on the death of her mother Annie Byrne, Blackwater who died recently.  
R.I.P.

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

**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

**First Friday**

All invalids in the parish on the sick list will be visited on Thursday & Friday 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> February with Holy Communion.

**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](http://www.ballyduffnswex.ie) If you would like to enrol please: call 053 9383436 or email [secretary@ballyduffnswex.ie](mailto:secretary@ballyduffnswex.ie) to request an enrolment form to be sent to you.

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
28th January 2024**

In this first chapter Mark familiarises his readers with the type of things Jesus did to proclaim the kingdom, the Reign of God. Our passage today touches on two of these, the first being that *'he taught as one having authority'*. It makes a difference when you listen to someone who is clearly speaking from experience and personal knowledge. Remember people who impressed you in this way. Jesus' combined teaching with healing, and he drove the evil spirit out of the man. The power of God that worked this wonder through Jesus is also at work in and through us today. When have you been freed from some bad habit? The evil spirit convulsed the man before it left him. The path to liberation can be a painful struggle. If you have found it so, who was the Jesus person that helped you through the struggle to freedom? It is not only individuals but groups that can be struggling with an evil spirit – jealousy, rivalry, malicious gossiping, abuse of power, etc. Sometimes a Jesus person comes into the group and drives out that evil spirit. Have you experienced this? Perhaps you yourself have been this person on some occasion?

**Tombrack N.S Open Night  
8th February 2024.**

We pride ourselves on learning through experiences. All present and new students & parents are welcome. Any questions call 053 9366738

**Wexford Mental Health Association  
Annual Church Gate Collection.**

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

***Your continued support is appreciated.***

**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](mailto:Aidan.gleeson@foroige.ie)

Thank you for your time

**Prayer to Saint Brigid**

You were a woman of peace. You brought harmony where there was conflict. You brought light to the darkness. You brought hope to the downcast. May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world. Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made. Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary. Strengthen what is weak within us. Calm us into quietness that heals and listens. May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Amen.

Wexford County Pro Life are holding a meeting in the Friary Wexford town at 7pm on Thursday 1st February, St Bridget's Feast day. All Welcome to attend.

**Vacancy RSS Scheme**

Maintenance/Grounds person Clonee GAA Club/Ballyduff National school. Please contact: Or Local RSS supervisor Aodhán Power for eligibility.

**Ferns Community Project C.L.G.**

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