



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€981.00**

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

St. Dorothy, Virgin and Martyr Feast Day February 6th

Inflicted with cruel torments because of her refusal to marry or to worship idols, she was being led to execution when a young lawyer, Theophilus, jeered at her and asked her to send him fruit from the garden to which she was going. During her prayer, there suddenly appeared an angel with a basket of fruit and roses, which she sent to Theophilus. The miracle brought about his conversion and his subsequent martyrdom.

Prayer: St. Dorothy, pray for us that we may receive the fruits and flowers of Heavenly grace and share them with others. Amen.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

The 'Hook of Faith' this week focuses on the theme of suffering that emerges with Job in the first reading at Mass this Sunday and in Mark's Gospel with Jesus who deliberately sought out those who were suffering and in distress. We have an article and newsletter insert on the mystery of suffering that has always troubled humanity and challenges faith in a loving God. We include Pope Francis' prayer intention for February which is for the terminally ill and provide resources for 8th February – the 'International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking'. We have an article on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan by Jim Thompson and another article by Sean Byrne. Finally, in advance of the referendum in March about the proposed change to the Constitution about women's place in the home, a Supreme Court Judge clarifies important terms. 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. 25

3rd & 4th February 2024

Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 4th February 2024

This passage tells three stories to illustrate the various dimensions of the life and ministry of Jesus. There is food for thought in each of them.

1. The first story (vv. 29-31) is one of healing. You might reflect on times when you were sick in body, mind or spirit and someone was a 'Jesus person' to you, someone who 'took you by the hand and lifted you up'. Remember them with gratitude. Have there been times also when you did this for others?
2. The second story (vv. 32-34) adds another dimension. People are freed from demons. Have you had the experience of being freed from demons that imprisoned you: fear, anxiety, guilt, low self-esteem, addictions, bitterness, etc.? What was it like for you to get that freedom? Who were the 'Jesus people' who helped to free you?
3. The third story (vv. 35-39) has a number of different elements we can consider
 - a) Jesus goes off to a desert place to pray. After a hectic day he felt the need for quiet to ground himself once more. In the busyness of life how do you keep in touch with what is going on inside yourself? How do you keep in touch with God? Where do you find your 'deserted place'? What difference does it make for you when you do succeed in taking time out?
 - b) Jesus shows himself as a person seeking to break new ground. The disciples want him to continue ministry where he is. He wants to move on. What has been your experience of breaking new ground, moving beyond your comfort zone, or trying something you had not tried before? When has this had a life-giving effect for you?



FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

This 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.

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.

**Mass Time & Intentions
This 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: Willie Fortune, Coolbawn

Rita (Margaret) Ronan, Coolbawn

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

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

Monasootha

Andy Doyle, Monasootha

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.45am:

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next Weekend**

10th & 11th February 2024

Ferns Church

6.15pm: Tracy Parker & her husband

Michael Barnard

Myles Collier, Ballintore

8.30am:

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

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.

Ferns Prayer Group

Will be meeting in the Pastoral Centre on Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm.

All are very welcome

10th & 11th February 2024

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Ena Gray

8.30am: Denis Kinsella

11.00am: Eleanor Hawkins

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Ann Bernie & Mary Fortune

8.30am: A Volunteer

11.00am: Liz Villar & Patricia Keenan

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

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.

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

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, 7th February 2024 at 8 pm in St. Mogue's Cottage, Ferns, Co. Wexford. All welcome.

Public Consultation Meetings

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

This meeting will commence at 7.30 pm

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.

**Thought For the Day
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4th February 2024**

- When things are against you remember that aircraft take off into the wind.
- Other's love for you is God's gentle helping hand on your shoulder.
- Genuine listening requires a courageous open mind that is ready to change.
- Before you sleep name one thing for which you are grateful each day.
- No matter how you feel, wake up, get up, dress up, show up and try not to give up.
- To be without some of the things we want is indispensable to happiness.
- Every great event happened when someone decided not to give up.
- Children may wreck a house, but they can hold a home together.

**Des O'Donnell OMI,
Random Reflections
(Messenger Publications)**

The Annual Church Gate Collection for in support of the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje will take place on the 18th and 19th of February next. This Youth Pilgrimage is one of the opportunities for us to invest in our young people as twenty young people from schools all over our diocese prepare to go to Medjugorje in April. Please give generously and we thank you for your support.

If you would like to donate online please see details below:

Bank: Bank of Ireland, The Quay, Wexford

IBAN: IE20 BOFI 9067 1840 9690 78

SORT: 906718

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 40969078

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.

St. Brigid Service

An evening of Song, Poetry and Prayer. Sunday 4th February 2024 at 7.00 pm at Clonard Church, Wexford.

ALL ARE WELCOME!