 **Sunday Envelope Collection**  
 The amount received for **Ferns** for the week was **€849.20**  
 The amount received for **Ballyduff** for month of January was **€317.20**  
 The amount received from **Clogogue** for the month of February **€210.00**  
**Thank you for your generosity**

**St. Patrick, Confessor and Bishop**  
**Feast Day March 17th**

Apostle to the Isle of Saints, Ireland's devotion to this son of a Roman Official who brought them the faith, has made his name synonymous the world over with the enduring, heroic faith of the Irish.

**Prayer**

*St. Patrick, pray that imitating your zeal we may strive as far as in our power to bring peace and unity to all with whom we come in contact. Amen.*

**THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK**

This year, the feast of St Patrick falls on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. In the mist of the celebrations, it is good for us to remember how Patrick urged us to turn away from false gods in keeping with the focus of this penitential season. We offer a homily and the newsletter insert on this special day and also an article on why the witness of St Patrick continues to inspire. In keeping with Patrick's missionary spirit, we have an interview with the Ferns Director of pastoral Development Sean O'Leary who talks about the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 'Our Future Church' and the special collection this weekend to fund it. A video interview with Fr Brendan Kilcoyne discusses the challenge to re-evangelise Ireland and we include the recording of the recent webinar on the promotion of Vocations. Finally, we have the last meditations on 'Jesus' Seven Last Words' and include an article on St Joseph as a man of honour on his feast day. Check out these and other resources 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: Ferns:** Vigil Mass, Saturday **6.15pm** & Sunday **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, CLOLOGUE**

**Weekend Mass Time: Sunday 9.00am**

**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

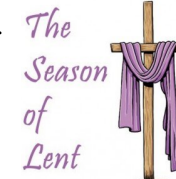
Ballyduff: Alan Byrne 086 8135149. Clogogue: Mary Skelton 087 6984703

**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. 31

16th & 17th March 2024

Fifth 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 Clogogue Church only Sunday 9.00a.m.**  
**in Ballyduff Church Saturday only 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.**



**Basket Collections For St. Patrick's Weekend**

The **total basket** collections for all Masses in all churches for this weekend St. Patrick's will be going to Our Future Church. They are Inspiring faith and building hope in our parish communities. Helping children and families prepare for Baptism, First Communion & Confirmation. Supporting families and loved ones in times of illness and bereavement. Leading prayer services in our parishes. Sustaining Parish life and administration. **Your generosity would be very much appreciated.**

**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.

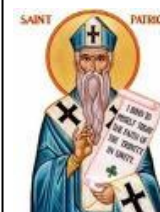
Presented by Fr. Jim Finn

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

Venue: St. Peter's Pastoral Centre  
 To Register: Ring 0874475434 or mail [stephanieobr@gmail.com](mailto:stephanieobr@gmail.com).  
 €10 payable on first evening.

**Fifth Sunday of Lent/St Patrick, Bishop, Principal Patron  
 17th March 2024 Day of Prayer for Emigrants**

Some of us become overwhelmed by life's contradictions. The pain and injustice that they see on every side causes them to lose all faith in God and in life. That could have happened to Jesus. If ever there was a person who had the right to doubt God, and to despair of the human race, and to become cynical about life, that person was Jesus. But through all of His injustice and all of the pain, His faith did not fail. He kept on believing in God, unlike many of us, He kept on believing in people, He kept believing in life. At Calvary, faith won. [atonementfriars.org](http://atonementfriars.org)



**A BLESSING ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY -  
 THE TRUE SUN**

For this sun which we now see rises each new day for us at his command, Yet it will never reign Nor will its splendour last for ever. But we who believe and adore The true sun that is Christ Will never die, nor will those Who have done his will, But will abide for ever, Just as Christ himself will abide for all eternity, Who reigns with God and Father all-powerful, And with the Holy Spirit before time began, And now and through all ages of ages.

**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend**

**16th & 17th March 2024**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Annie Kinsella, Coolroe

Sarah Bolger, Pairc Mhuire, Ferns

**11.00am:** Michael & Elizabeth Lacey,  
Ballycarney & their daughter Bridget Mary  
& son Martin

Philomena Lawton & Margaret Hurrup

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Phyllis McDonald, Camolin Park

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.00am:**

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend**

**23rd & 24th March 2024**

**Ferns Church**

**6.15pm:** Elsie Dunbar, Coolbawn

Nicholas & Chrissie Browne, Piercestown

Kevin & Kathleen Rochford, Pairc Mhuire

Rupert Cahill, Pairc Mhuire

(Month's Mind)

**11.00am:** Edward Davitt, Crann, Ferns

Nancy & Jackie Hanlon, Coolbawn

Patricia Denby, Castlelands, Ferns

(Month's Mind)

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Martin Byrne, Clonee Lane

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.00am:** John Tonks, Milltown, Ferns

**Coffee Day and Bring and Buy  
Sale for the Irish Cancer Society  
Daffodil Day**

in Ivan and Mary Rynharts,

postcode Y21C6K7

on Friday 22nd March

from 11am to 11pm.

*All are most welcome to support  
this very worthy cause.*

**23rd & 24th March 2024**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Ena Gray

**11.00am:** Eleanor Hawkins

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Margaret Maguire &

Mary Fortune

**11.00am:** Ann Swaine & Liz Villar

**Synodal Journey**

The continued success of the Synodal journey already begun in our Diocese requires ongoing 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Congratulations**

To the children of Tombrack National School who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday last. We wish them all health and happiness in their future lives. May the Lord bless them to be always open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they go through life.

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome into the faith

**Cooper Jax Mahon**

who was baptised recently.

**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*

**Important Changes to  
Mass Times in The Parish**

There will be no Mass on Sunday mornings at 8.30am in Ferns, the only Mass will be the 11.00 am Mass each Sunday. Mass in Clologue on Sunday mornings will now be at 9.00am instead of 9.45am.

**Ferns Heritage Archive Group:**

Ferns Heritage Archive Group will hold their AGM on Wednesday 27th March at 7.30pm in St. Mogue's Cottage. All are welcome!

**Readers Rota's**

There are new updated readers rota's available for collection from the Parish Office or sacristy.

**Ferns Prayer Group**

Ferns Prayer Group will be meeting in the Pastoral Centre on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30 p.m.

**All are very welcome.**

**LOURDES**

**Ferns Diocesan Pilgrimage 2024**, Led by Bishop Ger Nash

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

€865 p.p.s 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.**

**St Patrick's Day 17th March  
Prayer for Those Away from Home**

Loving God, we pray for those whom we love, but who are absent from us.

Keep them safe from all harm, evil and danger. Bless them with peace, laughter, wisdom, love and joy. Grant that we may be reunited in the fullness of love; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*From Prayers of our Hearts by Vienna Cobb Anderson. Further prayers for emigrants can be found on catholicbishops.ie*

**Mass of Chrism**

On Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7.30pm at St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy.

You are asked to be seated by 7.00p.m. Seating will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

**All Welcome.**

**Sincere Sympathy**

Is extended to The Denby Family on the death of Sita Denby-Atkinson, Clonhaston, Enniscorthy & to The Cadigan Family on the death of Mary Cadigan, Kilkenny who died recently.  
R.I.P.

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

**Envelope Distributors**

Easter Dues Envelopes are now ready for collection either in the Sacristy or Parish Office. Thank you all for your help, it is much appreciated.