



Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for
Ferns for the week was **€453.00**

The amount received for **Ballyduff** for
month of January was **€317.20**

The amount received from **Clogogue** for
the month of January **€400.45**

Thank you for your generosity

Church Gate Collection

Wexford Spina Bifida Branch will hold church gate collections in Ferns & Clogogue. Your generosity would be much appreciated.

Confirmation Ceremony for Tombrack

Confirmation Ceremony will take place on Friday 15th March for the candidates of Tombrack N.S at 11a.m. in Ferns Church. We wish all the candidates every blessing and good wishes on their special day.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

The homily for the Fourth Sunday of Lent focuses on the launch of the Pastoral Plan 'Our Future Church' in the Diocese of Ferns. Sean O' Leary and Fr Chris Hayden offer a theological reflection on the vision of the plan. The newsletter insert is a reflection and prayer for all Mothers on Mothers Day. We hear a fascinating story of one man's journey from being a doctor to being a priest. There is a video from Fr Brendan Kilcoyne on the challenge to re-evangelise Ireland and a poem by Philip Quirke called 'Medieval Cloisters'. We continue the series of reflections on Jesus' 'Seven Last Words' and include a reflection by Bishop Robert Barron the Book of Jonah that has repentance as a central theme. Finally, news of a pen-friend initiative to support Irish prisoners overseas. 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, CLOGUE

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. 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



Ferns Parish Newsletter

The
Season
of
Lent



Vol. 18. No. 30

9th & 10th March 2024

Fourth 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 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.



Basket Collections For St. Partick's Weekend

The total basket collections for all Masses in all churches for St. Patrick's weekend 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 email stephanicobr@gmail.com.

€10 payable on first evening.



Happy Mother's Day

Mothers are everything for us when we are small...our lives revolve around her. For everything that we need we call Mother. To protect us from all perceivable dangers we want her around us. To take us out we hold her arms. To kiss away our wound we run to her. And for a warm hug and love we look for her. She is the focal point of our lives, the greatest human being in the world or should we say divinity on earth. On the special occasion of Mother's Day pay tribute to your mother - the greatest blessing of God on you.

**Mass Time & Intentions
This Weekend**

9th & 10th March 2024

Ferns Church

6.15pm: Martin Murphy, Clone Road

Michael Kinsella, Bolachoir

11.00am: Tom Swaine, Coolbawn, Ferns

Jim & Margaret Gethings,

Coolbawn, Ferns

Sean Davitt, 91 years

Birthday Thanksgiving

BALLYDUFF CHURCH

7.30pm: Margaret O'Neill, Bolinaspect

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.00am:

**Mass Time & Intentions
Next 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:

CLOLOGUE CHURCH

9.00am:

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the faith

Páidí & Rían Skelton

who were baptised recently.

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

There will be no Mass on Sunday mornings at 8.30am in Ferns from this Sunday, 10th of March 2024.

Mass in Clologue on Sunday mornings will now be at 9.00am from this Sunday, 10th March 2024 instead of 9.45am.

16th & 17th March 2024

Ministers of the Word

6.15pm: Brendan Kenny

11.00am: Frances O'Toole

Ministers of Holy Communion

6.15pm: Mary Cullen & Dora Murphy

11.00am: Eleanor Hawkins & Christopher

Power

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 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.



Congratulations

To the children of Ballyduff 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.

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!

**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*

**Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mother's Day
Whoever lives the truth,
comes to the light.'**

(John 3:21)

Happy Mother's Day from all in Trócaire. In the Machinga district of Malawi, Malita is a strong and resilient woman, despite the challenges she faces. She works tirelessly in her community to improve the life of all its members. Like all mothers, she prays for the best for her children. She wants them to have an education and opportunities for a better life. Trócaire and its local partners are working with women like Malita to build a more just world. To learn more, go to <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes> A society without mothers would be a dehumanized society, for mothers are always, even in the worst moments, witnesses of tenderness, dedication and moral strength.'

*(Pope Francis, General Audience,
7th January 2015).*

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.

Icon Classes in New Ross This March

What do you know about religious icons? Well if you wish to find out more and have a chance to make your own, please contact Sr. Helen at the Carmelite Monastery, 087 2181687. Sr. Helen is starting new courses for both beginners and experienced artists alike, here in New Ross, on the 13th March 2024. The cost includes brushes, paints, boards and tuition etc. Spaces are limited, so book early.

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.

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WWW.MARIAN.IE.