



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received for  
**Ferns** for the week was **€540.00**

The amount received for **Ballyduff** for  
month of **March & April** was **€1496.00**

The amount received from **Clogogue** for  
the month of **March** **€315.00**

*Thank you for your generosity*

### Prayer of St Brendan the Voyager Feast 16th May

*Help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.*

*Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You  
to be stronger than each storm within me.*

*I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.*

*Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,  
and somehow, make my obedience  
count for You.*

*Amen.*

### THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK

We have arrived at the great feast of Pentecost Sunday, the birth of the Church. We offer newsletter inserts and a homily for this great feast. We include an encouraging letter from Pope Francis to priests that emerged from the recent 'Parish Priests for the Synod' conference in Rome. We feature the Novena Prayer for Life that runs from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May and an article on how we can evangelise culture in a way that makes a difference. 'The New Atheism and the Meaning Crisis' is a must see video with Justin Brierly that investigates how lack of belief has spawned a massive crisis of meaning in peoples' lives. We have an article by Sean O'Leary on vocations and an open letter to Leaving Cert students as they prepare for their exams, to leave Secondary School and turn a new page of their lives. Check out these and other resources available at

[www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 18. No. 40

18th & 19th May 2024

Pentecost Sunday

### Pentecost Sunday 19th May 2024

1. Jesus recognised that his disciples were not capable of taking in everything at once. Wisdom about life comes slowly and sometimes painfully. Hearing the 'right' answer at the 'wrong' time does not help us. We need to be ready and open to receiving the truth if it is to have any impact. Perhaps you can recall some occasions when it was the 'right' time for you to learn a truth about life. Remember your experiences of growth in understanding.
2. The Spirit can guide us to understanding in different settings. Understanding may have come to you when you were praying or reflecting on your life. Perhaps the Spirit guided you through the words of someone close to you, or through the words and actions of people you read about or saw on TV. Remember and give thanks for the people who have helped you to greater wisdom in life.
3. The Spirit also speaks to us through 'the signs of the times'. The church has lived through a troubled decade or two, and society has been through turbulent times with the climate crisis, political unrest, wars and forced migration. How do you think the Spirit is speaking to us at this time?
4. Wisdom is handed on from person to person, and from generation to generation, within families, within communities, etc. Are there any particular gems of wisdom that you cherish from what has been handed on to you? What wisdom would you like most of all to pass on to those close to you?

### Festival of Ferns 2024 – Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> & Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

A Festival Parade and Inauguration ceremony of the King of Leinster are the highlights of this year's festival. The parade will start at St. Edan's Cathedral at 12 noon on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and will finish at Ferns Castle where there will be re-enactment and entertainment on an outdoor stage on the Castle grounds.

The highlight on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a Celtic Jazz concert at Ferns Castle at 7pm. There will be a number of family fun activities at the Community Park, behind Ferns Community Centre. Other activities and events include a busking competition on Main St, music in local pubs, a variety of guided walking tours and an exhibition in Scoil Naomh Maodhog.

All events are free – thanks to grant funding from Failte Ireland, Creative Communities and Wexford County Council and local sponsors Roches Bus Hire, Irish Sea Contractors. Special thanks also to all the volunteers and to the Friends of Festival of Ferns for providing services and support.

Follow Festival of Ferns on Facebook and Instagram.

Enquiries by email to: [festivalofferns@gmail.com](mailto:festivalofferns@gmail.com).

### Trocaire Boxes

We ask you to please return your Trócaire Boxes. **The amount collected so far is €2,217.**

### Flames of Hope—A week of guided prayer in preparation for The Feast of Pentecost Come Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and our Community

This retreat can be made while we go about our ordinary work and activities. We invite Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a special way into all our life. It is designed to help us pause in our busy lives, see where we are heading, who we are becoming and to grow closer to our God. By praying with the scriptures we see how they can nourish our lives and open our hearts to the graces of the Holy Spirit. The commitment is to personal prayer daily (30Min) and a daily meeting with a guide at a time and place convenient to you. Retreatants usually meet as a group for introduction and again for celebration at the end. **Offered: May 12th-May 18th.**

### 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)

**Mass Time & Intentions  
This Weekend**

**18th & 19th May 2024**

**Ferns Church**

**6.15pm:** Charlie & Bridie Murphy,  
Ferns Upper

Jim & Lizzie Byrne, Castlelands  
Andrew O'Neill, Main Street  
Linda O'Toole, Lodgewood

**11.00am:** Nora & Andrew Morris, Pairc  
Mhuire & deceased family members  
Adelaide Lacey, Ballyandrew

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:**

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.00am:**

**Mass Time & Intentions  
Next Weekend**

**25th & 26th May 2024**

**FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Joan McGrath, Ferns Upper  
Months Mind

Johnny Kavanagh, Coolbawn & his  
parents Lil & Bill Kavanagh, Strahart &  
his sister Susan Halpin

Lorraine Jordan, Carnew Road

**11.00 am:** Jack & Sadie Short,

Ballycoog, Arklow

Jack Cullen, Carnew Road

Mary Collier, Ballintore

**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Susan Byrne, Clonee Lane  
Mick Murphy, Tincurry

**CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.00am:** Aidan Breen, Milesogue

**Clothes and Cash for Ballyduff NS**

There is a clothes bank located outside Ballyduff National School. All money received from this clothes bank will go directly to Ballyduff National School. All support would be greatly welcomed.

**25th & 26th May 2024**

**Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Brendan Kenny

**11.00am:** Ailish Davitt

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

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

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

**Coming Together in a Special Prayer for  
Peace in the World**

Saturday 18th May 10am-12.30pm. In The  
Diocesan Offices, St Peter's, Summerhill  
Road, Wexford, Y35 XFN8.

*All are Welcome*

**Patron Dates 2024**

**Ferns**

Sunday 2nd June at 2.00p.m.

Procession of The Blessed Sacrament leaving  
Church car park at 1.30p.m.

**Clogogue**

Sunday 28th July at 2.00p.m.

**Ballyduff**

Sunday 11th August at 2.00p.m.

**Camross Hall Centenary Concert**

Presents "Green Road" on Saturday  
18<sup>th</sup> of May at 8.30pm. Doors open at  
8.00pm at Camross Hall Co Wexford  
Y35YY89. Admission 25 euros. Tickets  
available 0868369047 or eventbrite.com/  
Green Road at Camross Hall.

**Pray for Life Novena**

The *Pray for Life* Novena is an invitation to  
join thousands of people across Ireland to  
pray for the protection of human life, from  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to the Feast of the Visitation  
on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Each day's intention  
is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested  
actions to help build a culture of life in  
Ireland. Visit [www.prayforlife.ie](http://www.prayforlife.ie) for the daily  
novena prayers and to sign up for daily reminders.  
The prayers will also be posted on  
[@PrayforLife](https://facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena) ie on X and prayforlifenovena  
on Instagram. Let us know if you are praying  
the novena together as a parish, family or  
other group via [www.prayforlife.ie/#home-  
events](http://www.prayforlife.ie/#home-events) This is an initiative of the Council for  
Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

**\*All Ireland Rosary Rally in Knock\***

The All Ireland Rosary Rally will take place  
on Saturday June 1st from 1pm in Knock. It  
will include Holy Mass 3pm, Stations of the  
Cross 2pm and Rosary Procession 2.30pm and  
talks in St John's Centre and the Basilica. The  
Main Celebrant for the Holy Mass is Bishop  
Alphonsus Cullinan. A bus will leave from  
Clonard, Wexford at 6.30am. Oylegate Bus  
Stop - 6.45am, Enniscorthy Promenade -  
6.55am, Ferns Church - 7.10am, Camolin Bus  
Stop - 7.15am, Gorey Monument at - 7.25am,  
Arklow - 7.40am. Return to Wexford at approx.  
9.30pm Please book your seat early to  
avoid disappointment. Ring Eileen : 087  
9331809 or 087 6846908.

**Upcoming Events in Knock**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, we will officially launch the  
new Creation Walk and all are welcome to  
attend. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, we will host 'Seeing is  
Believing – Art as a Doorway to Mystery',  
where we will gain personal insights into  
the influence of Christian art on international  
art experts. Guest speakers will be Fr.  
Patrick Van Der Vorst, Caroline Campbell,  
Director of the National Gallery and Dr  
Nora Donnelly. Further information is  
available on [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)

**Tombrack Litter Pick**

The co-ordinators of the Tombrack Clean-Up  
would like to thank everyone who helped in  
the past weeks. 41 bags of rubbish were  
collected. We would appeal to residents to  
continue cleaning the stretch of road, 30 metres  
on both sides of their property, in order to  
keep our road litter free. Many thanks to all  
our volunteers who worked so hard. Your  
efforts make such a difference to the whole  
community.

**Lough Derg 2024 Three Day Pilgrimage**

In the tradition of prayer, fasting & vigil. Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May until Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August  
(Pilgrims can begin pilgrimage on any day until Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August)  
Admission €80. Booking advised. Concessions available for students, seniors and  
groups.

**One Day Retreat**

**May:** Sun 5<sup>th</sup>, Mon 6<sup>th</sup>, Sun 12<sup>th</sup>, Tues 14<sup>th</sup>, Sat 18<sup>th</sup>, Sat 25<sup>th</sup>, Mon 27<sup>th</sup>.

**August:** Sat 17<sup>th</sup>, Tues 20<sup>th</sup>, Sun 25<sup>th</sup>, Mon 26<sup>th</sup>, Sat 31<sup>st</sup>.

**September:** Wed 4<sup>th</sup>, Sat 7<sup>th</sup>, Tues 10<sup>th</sup>, Sat 14<sup>th</sup>, Sun 15<sup>th</sup>, Sat 21<sup>st</sup>, Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Admission €45. Booking essential. Concessions available for groups.

**Contact Lough Derg 071 9861518 or [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org)**

**Thought for the Day Pentecost Sunday  
19th May 2024**

Growth, progress, economic interest and profit can often be pursued for their own sake, without any regard for the consequences for other areas of life, whether on the poor and excluded, or the environment, or on the global good of inclusion. The freedom given by the Spirit is not an individualistic freedom. The freedom that comes from the Spirit unites. We all need community, but we must all construct community. The 'Creator Spirit' is the one who helps us steer the path of human progress in another direction, within a framework respectful of God's design for his creation, forcing us to transform our individualism and self-centeredness into a response of generosity.

*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin  
Pentecost Reflection*

**First Holy Communion**

**Ferns**

25th May at 11am

**Ferns/Camolin 'Meals On Wheels'  
Delivery Service**

Is looking for volunteer drivers for the Ferns area. This is a valuable service which is much appreciated by those who need it. It is a service which not only delivers pre-prepared meals but is also a point of contact for our clients. As our client base is extending, we are looking for volunteer drivers to help deliver meals to our clients. Volunteers will work as part of a team and must have their own car. If interested, please contact Catherine by email: [fercammeals@gmail.com](mailto:fercammeals@gmail.com).

**Chiropody Clinic**

Please contact Denis Kinsella, The Square,  
Ferns Y21 N797 on 087 2465720.  
Available to do house calls if necessary.