

St. Peter and Paul's Church, Ballymacward.

(Listen to Mass at 101.4 fm)

PARISH WEBSITE: ballymacwardgurteenparish.com

To contact Fr. Raymond Sweeney Ph: (Landline) 090 9687614. or (M) 086 3868169

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS . ballymacwardparish@eircom.net

Saturday 28th. **Vigil Mass at 7pm. FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**
Mass for the Holy Souls.

Monday 30th. **Mass at 9am. John Tilman U.S.A. recently deceased, Father of**
Storee Quinn, Monaveen.

Tuesday 1st. **Mass at 9am. Private Intention.**

Thursday 3rd. **Mass at 9am.**

Friday 4th. **Mass at 7pm. FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.**

Saturday 5th. **Vigil Mass at 7pm. SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**

Thomas Mitchell, Liscune (Anniv)

Evelyn Gavin, Attyregan (6th. Anniv)

John, Martin, Delia, and Nonia Carr, Lisheen (Anniv)

Pete Conheeny, and Michael Conheeny Annagh (7th. and 66th. Anniv)

J.P. Kelly, Clongowna (28th. Anniv)

R.I.P.: Your prayers are requested for Mrs. Mona Finnerty, New Inn, sister of Julia Murphy, Lisheen, and for Paddy Loughnane, Gort, brother of Michael Loughnane, Mounthazel,

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB. RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 16th. NOVEMBER. WINNING No.'s 13,20,23,30 - No Winner. & NO MATCH 3. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW TAKES PLACE ON MONDAY NIGHT 30th. OF NOVEMBER FOR A JACKPOT OF €10,000 IN THE CLUBHOUSE. WHY NOT PLAY LOTTO ONLINE @ bit.ly/30J9HcT.

NOTE:

(1) THE WALKWAY IS OPEN AGAIN, PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON THE ASTROTURF PITCH.

(2) AGM Notice at: <https://bit.ly/3n9rlif>

MINI ADVENT RETREAT ON ZOOM

For three sessions, during Advent, you are invited to take part in a mini-retreat that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan, St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy and will take place from **Tuesday 1st to **Thursday** 3rd December beginning at 8pm. To take part, all you need to do is send an email to thehookoffaith@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Come and join us to prepare for **Christmas**.**

Online Advent Scripture Sharing Groups meeting on Sundays of Advent 7.30 - 8.10 pm and Thursdays of Advent, 11 – 11-40am

More details @ www.creideamh.ie/advent . All welcome.

Fr. Michael Griffin Memorial Church, Gurteen.

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Sunday 29th. Mass at **11am**. **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**

Sally Healy (Anniv)

Friday 4th. Mass at **8pm**. **FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.**

Sunday 6th. Mass at **11am**. **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**

James Molloy, Faha (25th. Anniv)

Sean and Bridget Lally, Colemanstown (Anniv)

Tom Healy, Liscune (3rd. Anniv)

Dear Parishioner,

Our parish as a charitable institution can claim back tax on contributions received each year. If you contribute in total €250 or more during the year a percentage can be claimed back from Revenue. All that is needed is for you to complete a CHY Enduring Certificate which is good for five years. These forms are available from the parish office and can be posted to you.

This is a very worthwhile scheme that is operated by many parishes in the country and could be a good source of revenue for the parish especially at this time. I wish to express sincere thanks to everyone for your contribution to the upkeep of our parish.

Yours Faithfully, Fr. Raymond Sweeney

St Brendan's Education Centre, Abbey St., Loughrea:

We have places available on the following courses commencing in the New Year 2021 :

QQI Level 5 Communications which will commence on **Wednesday** 13th January, 6.30 to 9.30 pm

QQI Level 5 Safety and Health which will commence on **Wednesday** 13th January, 9.30 to 1pm.

QQI Level 5 Nutrition which will commence on **Thursday** 22nd February, 9.30 to 1pm

and Infection, Prevention and Control that afternoon 1.30 to 4.

QQI Level 5 Word and Spreadsheets starting week of 11th January, day time. Confirmation of days on enquiry. **Desktop Publishing Level 4** **Wednesday** or **Thursdays**, **just a few places left in these IT classes**

Culinary Skills Level 4 and Level 5 in February: days, date and times are not decided.

Please email freda.murphy@gretb.ie or call 091 841387.

Advent 2020

Each passing year presents us with a new opportunity to recall the Christian story by celebrating the different feasts and seasons of what we call the Liturgical Year. As we do so our lives are opened up to the saving presence of God and we are drawn deeper into that great mystery of love between the father, the son and the Holy Spirit. The Liturgical year begins with the season of Advent, which consists of the four weeks before Christmas. Central to Advent is the Christian belief that God comes close to and visits humanity. “The first visit — we all know — occurred with the Incarnation, Jesus’ birth in the cave of Bethlehem; the second takes place in the present: the Lord visits us constantly, each day, walking alongside us and being a consoling presence; in the end, there will be the third, the last visit, which we proclaim each time that we recite the Creed: “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead”.

(Pope Francis, Angelus, 2016)

First Sunday of Advent – 29th November 2020

Today we celebrate the first of the four Sundays of Advent and with it a new Liturgical Year. As the commercial world about us readies itself for the Christmas season we are invited to take a step back and view the bigger picture: the key Christian belief that life is a sacred journey towards eternity and that someday “at an hour we do not expect”, Jesus will return again to bring finality to the transforming work he began that first Christmas many years ago.

In Hopeful Expectation: Prayers at Home for Advent in a Time of Pandemic

Each Advent, we are invited to set aside some extra time and space for prayer, reflection and good works. The restrictions in place because of the coronavirus mean that we may not be in a position to gather as usual for our religious services. This situation challenges us to find new ways of reflecting on our faith and praying in our homes. A guide to assist you in doing just that is now available. Download it from www.clonfertdiocese.ie Clonfert Diocese Facebook Page or Twitter Account.

The Advent Wreath

Catholicism has a long tradition of using images and symbols to help us to pray. Setting aside a place in your home for an advent Wreath can help in this regard. For this you will need some ever-green leaves and five candles (it is preferable if there are three purple, one pink and one white). Arrange the leaves in a circle. Without beginning or end, the circle, along with the green leaves, symbolises the eternity of God who sustains life in all things. Put the purple and pink candles in the circle – and place the white one in the centre. As we progress through the Sundays of Advent, the different candles are lit, with the white one being lit on Christmas Eve. With the lighting of each candle we are reminded of how God draws ever-near and brings with him his saving light to dispel the darkness of our lives and our world.