

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 26th. **Vigil Mass at 7pm. FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.**
The deceased members of the Ballymacward & Gurteen Social Club.
- Monday 28th. **Mass at 9am.**
- Tuesday 29th. **Mass at 9am.** Mike Gonley, Whitepark (Anniv) and the deceased members of the Gonley family.
- Friday 1st. **Mass at 7pm. NEW YEARS DAY. (FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH) MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.**
(World Day of Peace)
- Saturday 2nd. **Vigil Mass at 7pm. SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS.**
Charles Egan, Carrahulla (26th. Anniv)
Paddy and Rita O'Neill, Carrahulla and the deceased members of the O'Neill family.

NOTE: Our Churches are closed for the public celebration of Mass as per the Government guidelines, all Masses will be broadcast on the Parish Radio, and on Webcam on the Parish website until further notice. Our Churches will remain OPEN daily for private visitation/prayer.

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB. RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 21st. DECEMBER. WINNING No.'s 7,15,16,27- No Winner. & 2 MATCH 3s. ALAN FINN & CAITRIONA MOLLOY. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW TAKES PLACE ON MONDAY NIGHT 28th. OF DECEMBER FOR A JACKPOT OF €10,400 IN THE CLUBHOUSE.

€1,000.00 ROBBIE DONNELLAN

DECEMBER "250 CLUB DRAW"

€100 EAMON CHEEVERS, €75 SHANE RAFTERY, €50 ANGELA LAHEEN.

COLLECTIONS; BALLYMAC. 19/12/2020

Weekly Envelopes.	€912.00
Loose Plate	€ 5.00
Priests Autumn	€ 40.00
Priests Christmas	€790.00
8th. Dec.	€ 73.00
Missions.	€ 35.00
All Saints	€ 20.00
All Souls	€ 10.00
Priests Easter	€ 40.00
Christmas Day	€ 55.00

GURTEEN. 20/12/2020

Weekly Envelopes	€208.90
Loose Plate	€ 16.80
Priests Autumn	€.00
Priests Christmas	€220.00
8th. December	€ 12.00
Missions.	€.00
All Saints	€.00
All Souls	€.00

Fr. Michael Griffin Memorial Church, Gurteen.

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Sunday 27th. **Mass at 11am. FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.**

Patrick Keeley (Anniv) and the deceased members of the Keeley, Healy, and Corbett families.

James Flannery, Kinreask & U.S.A. (3rd. Anniv)

Friday 1st. **Mass at 8pm. NEW YEARS DAY. (FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH)**

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.

(World Day of Peace)

Sunday 3rd. **Mass at 11am. SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS.**

Sincere Thanks: to all who supported our parish, our churches and our diocese this past year: to those who participated in the Liturgy, Altar Servers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Church Collectors, and Counters, Choirs, Parish Secretary, Undertaker, Flower Arrangers, Christmas Tree Supplier, to all who Clean our Churches and care for the Altar Linens, to our Local Safeguarding Representatives. Our Parish Councils, Community Council, Hall Committee, Maintenance Committees and Cemetery Committees, and to anyone who helped out in any way during the past year. Gratitude to all who sent Cards, Mass Bouquets, and gifts for the Christmas. May the Lord continue to bless you for the great work you all do

CLOONKEENKERRILL CEMETERY: Due to the fact that there was no Public Mass in the cemetery this year, there was No Collection taken up for the upkeep of the Cemetery. The Committee have left envelopes at the Church entrances, and you are encouraged to take one if you are a plot holder in the Cemetery. You can return them with you donation to either MICHAEL ROCHE, or LIAM GRADY. Funds are urgently required at this time, all contributions would be gratefully received.

Earlier this year, the Irish Hospice Foundation launched a Bereavement Support Line (for adults) in partnership with the HSE. Since June, they have received over 600 calls from those grieving in these exceptional times and in need of comfort, connection and support. People are calling about COVID-related deaths and deaths from other causes in 2020 but many are also finding a previous loss more difficult right now.

The Irish Hospice Foundation will continue to be there for the bereaved over the difficult festive period and are delighted to let you know that the IHF Bereavement Support Line will be open over **Christmas**, every weekday (except **Christmas** Day). The IHF Bereavement Support Line is available Freephone [1800 80 70 77](tel:1800807077), **Monday to Friday**, 10 am-1 pm.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:

Christmas Greetings from Bishop Michael Duignan This time last year no one could have imagined what lay ahead in 2020. Who would have thought that a tiny virus would bring this world of ours to a standstill? Who would have thought that within months we would have become fixated with hand washing and cough hygiene, wearing face coverings and keeping apart? Who would have thought that it would have gone on for so long and continues to go on as I write this message with but a faint hope of an end in sight? Who would have thought that so many lives would be lost and so many livelihoods changed? It is a year, when our lives were upended in so many ways. When our priorities were questioned and in many instances changed. I cannot help but think that in a strange sort of way the Pandemic has stripped back so many things in our lives to the essentials.

Maybe more than any other year in recent memory, these days of restrictions have the potential to bring us closer to the real meaning of Christmas. The story of the events in Bethlehem those many years ago is a story about people – ordinary people like you and me - Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Inn Keeper. They were trying to live their lives as best they could under somewhat difficult circumstances when God reached out to them and through them to humanity in a way we could never have imagined. In Jesus our lives have been profoundly enhanced. His message has brought into focus the fundamental importance of our relationship with God and with one another. Material possessions or money or positions or power, even all the toys that Santa Claus could ever bring, will never make us truly happy – only living life in love with God and one another will. This is the secret of a life well lived. This is what life is all about.

After the year that has been, perhaps this Christmas, it is easier to see the truth in all of this. Perhaps, this year allows us a unique opportunity to cherish more the presence of God in our lives and to better appreciate the people around us. I invite you in the next few days to take time to acknowledge the reality of a higher power and to chat with God in your heart. Take some time to thank God for the people in your life. Try and find ways to safely reach out to them as best you can. Husbands, be thankful for your wives. Put your arms around them and tell them what they mean to you. Wives do the same. Small children give Mammy and Daddy a hug. Parents tell your children, those who are still small and those who have grown tall and made their way in life, how much you love them. Remember that sons and daughters are never too old to tell their parents, even from a distance, that they love them. Grandparents reach out as best you can to your grandchildren. It might only be a hand pressed against a pane of glass, a little gift left at a distance or a telephone call but do something nonetheless. Grandchildren reach out safely to your grandparents – facetime them, write to them, call them on the telephone. Brothers and sisters, both small and grown up, make some safe quality time for each other. Let us pick up the phone to an Aunt or an Uncle. If there is disagreement or time has gone by not talking, perhaps, this is the Christmas to bring all that to an end.

Let us remember those who sat with us last year at table but who are not with us this year. Perhaps they sit at the heavenly table, perhaps they could not make it home or perhaps they