

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

Friday 24th. **VIGIL MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE @ 7pm**.

Frederick, John and Kathleen Noonan. (Anniv)

Saturday 25th. **MASS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING @ 9am**.

Michael, Maudie, and Thomas McDonagh, Greenhills
(27th., 23rd. & 22nd. Anniv)

(NOTE: NO EVENING/VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY CHRISTMAS EVENING)

Sunday 26th. **MASS ON ST. STEPHEN'S MORNING @ 9am**.

(FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH)

Monday 27th. **Mass @ 9am**. Jimmy Flannery, Kinreask (Anniv)

Tuesday 28th. **Mass @ 9am**. May Baska.

Thursday 30th. **FUNERAL MASS AT 1pm. KARIE O'DONNELL**

(Nee RAFTERY, Woodlawn)

Friday 31st. **Mass @ 7pm**. Charles Egan, Carrahulla (27th. Anniv)

Mary O'Brien, Ballyforan (Recently deceased)

Saturday 1st. **Vigil Mass @ 7pm. MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.**

(NEW YEARS DAY) SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS.

Mass for the people of the Parish.

R.I.P.; Your prayers are requested for Paddy Seale, Ballinasloe, husband of Mary
Kilkenny, Carana, who died during the week.

READER FOR JANUARY: JOHNNY BARRETT.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR JANUARY:

JOAN TANNIAN, ROSE LYDON (1st., 5th.(Eve of Holy Day) & 8th.)
ANN KINDREGAN, CATRIONA HYNES (15th., 22th. & 29th.)

NOTE: If you have friends or family living outside of the Parish, or living abroad, and they would like to contribute to the Window Restoration Fund, they can do so via the Clonfert website www.clonfertdiocese.ie Just indicate the donation is for Ballymacward Parish and its purpose. Figures for donations received will be published monthly, first figures in next weeks newsletter. Thank you.

Christmas Greetings from Bishop Michael

“This year, once again, I would like to thank all those who have generously given of themselves in service of others during the year – our frontline workers, medical staff, teachers, priests, religious, parish volunteers, civic leaders and scientists. In so many ways, you have truly put a human face on the presence of God with us in these seemingly never-ending Covid days. My wish for everyone this Christmas is that we may take that time to stop and ponder the immensely hidden depth of meaning that lies within this annual celebration of Christmas. I pray that in the process we may sense the hope giving and life-enhancing presence of God in the ordinary realities of our everyday lives. Nollaig naofa, beannachtai Iosa. Nollaig chroiuil is blain nua mhaith.”

Michael Griffin Memorial Church, Gurteen.

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- Friday 24th. VIGIL MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE @ 9pm.
Saturday 25th. MASS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING @ 11am.
Sunday 26th. MASS ON ST. STEPHEN'S MORNING @ 11am.
(FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH)
Paddy and Maura Connor, Tample (Anniv)
Friday 31st. NO EVENING MASS IN GURTEEN.
Saturday 1st. MASS @ 11am. NEW YEARS DAY.
Jimmy and Evelyn Qualter, (Anniv)
Sunday 2nd. MASS @ 11am. MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS.

Ita Flannery, Kinreask (1st. Anniv)

R.I.P.; Your prayers are requested for P.J.RUANE, Skehana, Brother of Eileen Walsh, Leneragh, who died during the week.

Christmas Blessings to all in our parish, and all our visitors. We keep in our prayers all who are isolated at home, in hospital, in nursing homes, those who are working over the Christmas, and those unable to travel home due to the pandemic. May this be a season of peace, and safety. May the life and light of the Christ-child, increase our faith, hope and love.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMACWARD. GURTEEN. (W/E 18th./19th./12/2021)

W/Envelopes.	€773.90	W/Envelopes	€857.40
Loose Plate	€ 10.00	Loose Plate	€ 34.00
Priests Easter	€ 40.00	Priests Easter	€ 20.00
Priests Summer	€ 70.00	Priests Summer	€ .00
Priests Autumn	€ 70.00	Priests Autumn	€ 50.00
Priests Christmas	€680.00	Priests Christmas	€738.00
8 th . December	€ 22.00	Holy Days	€ 17.00
Christmas Day	€ 42.00	Christmas Day	€ 20.00
Trocaire	€ 20.00	Trocaire.	€ .00
Missions	€ 20.00	Missions	€ .00
Popes	€ 20.00	Popes	€ .00

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB. RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 20th. DECEMBER. WINNING No.'s 6,8,11,30 - NO Winner & 1 MATCH 3, P.J. WARD. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW TAKES PLACE ON MONDAY NIGHT 27th. DECEMBER FOR A JACKPOT OF €4,100 IN THE CLUBHOUSE. Play the Lotto @bit.ly/ UNTIL 9pm MONDAY.

REMINDER: DON'T FORGET THE CLUB'S "PUCK-A-LONG ROAD HURLING" THIS ST. STEPHEN'S DAY SUNDAY 26th. DEC. STARTING @ BALLYMACWARD CHURCH @ 12 NOON, AND ENDS AT GURTEEN CHURCH. €50.00 PER TEAM OF 4. PHONE (087) 959 2881 TO BOOK YOUR TEAM.

Prayer at the Crib

God our Father you sent your only son, Jesus as a little child to love us and to be our Saviour. Your Holy Spirit came down on Mary and gave wisdom to Joseph so that they could prepare for his birth. As we pray here around the crib open our hearts to his love and to his gentle care. Take away our fears and fill our hearts with joy. Guide and care for our families and help us to care for one another so that we can live as the people of God. May we know his presence with us and find deep peace in our lives during these days of Christmas and in the year ahead. Amen

Copies of this prayer are available in the Church to take with you and to use before your crib at home.

For the Christmas Season: A Prayer at Mealtime

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the gift of family and friends. We give you thanks for gathering us around this table today. Bless our time together. We remember those who are absent from our company: those who cannot be with us* and those who now feast at your table in heaven.* We pray for the lonely and the sad, the homeless and the hungry. Give us a loving heart and a generous spirit to make our world a better place. For those who prepared this food and for what we are about to receive, we give you thanks O loving Father, through Christ O Lord. Amen
*here you may wish to remember them by name

Copies of this prayer are available in the Church to take with you and to use before your meals at home.

Christmas Greetings from Bishop Michael

“This year, once again, I would like to thank all those who have generously given of themselves in service of others during the year – our frontline workers, medical staff, teachers, priests, religious, parish volunteers, civic leaders and scientists. In so many ways, you have truly put a human face on the presence of God with us in these seemingly never-ending Covid days. My wish for everyone this Christmas is that we may take that time to stop and ponder the immensely hidden depth of meaning that lies within this annual celebration of Christmas. I pray that in the process we may sense the hope giving and life-enhancing presence of God in the ordinary realities of our everyday lives. Nollaig naofa, beannachtai Iosa. Nollaig chroiuil is blain nua mhaith.”

For Bishop Michael's full Christmas Message visit Clonfert Dioceses Facebook Page

Join our Big Family Christmas!

By setting your place at the Mary's Meals Big Family Christmas table, you'll help to feed a hungry child for a whole school year for less than €20. You'll get a beautiful digital placemat, featuring the name of your friend or loved one, to email or print out and pass on. Go to www.marysmeals.ie to set your place or call Patricia on 086 314 0814

Mary's Meals feeds over 2 Million children each school day in 19 of the worlds poorest countries. At least 93% of all donations go directly to their charitable activities. Food changes the story, with your help they can make a difference.

St Brendan's Education Centre: 091 841387

Courses commencing from Wednesday January 5th, 2022: Care Support, Care Skills, Challenging Behaviour(new) , Safety and Health, Horticulture, Database Methods, Customer Service, Retail Administration(new), Retail Selling(new), Communications Level 5: Horticulture and Spreadsheet Methods Level 4. Also waiting list being compiled for the new Early Childcare certificate commencing in September 2022. Please email freda.murphy@gretb.ie or john.melville@gretb.ie

Community Employment Supervisor

Western Alzheimers are recruiting a Community Employment Supervisor with overall responsibility for planning, leading, controlling and organising the Community Employment Scheme of 13 participants supporting the delivery of a range of services that support the care of people living with dementia in Roscommon. The Community Employment Supervisor will be responsible for the effective and efficient management of the human, financial and material resources of the CE Programme, ensuring that the scheme is run in accordance with DEASP guidelines and is of maximum benefit to both participants and the organisation Detailed job description available on our website <https://westernalzheimer.ie/careers/Please> send your CV to info@westernalzheimers.ie

“We are with you”

The Diocese of Clonfert has launched “We are with you”: a prayer initiative for the deceased and their families in these difficult times. See www.clonfertdiocese.ie

Keeping Connected

Why not visit Clonfert Diocese Facebook Page or follow on Clonfert Diocese Twitter.

General Operatives/ Maintenance Workers[CES Position]Duties to include: Working on the environmental sites around Mountbellew with responsibility for cutting grass, shrub planting. keeping public areas kept tidy and maintaining nature trails and general maintenance around the town, adherence to health and safety policies is maintained at all time. Please contact your local DEASP Employment Services / Intreo Office to check your eligibility and to apply for this vacancy. In order to qualify for these positions, you need to be in receipt of a social welfare payment. for further details please contact Sean on 090 9679085 or email mountbellewdd@gmail.com