

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND NEWSLETTER.

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

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from Heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing hallelujah
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born



St. Peter and Paul's Church, Ballymacward.

(Listen to Mass at 101.4 fm)

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

EIRCODE H53 YH60

PARISH WEBSITE: ballymacwardgurteenparish.com

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS . ballymacwardparish@eircom.net

Saturday 24th. VIGIL MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE @ 7pm.

Delia Naughton, Corskeagh (18th. Anniv) and the deceased members of the Naughton Family.
Frederick, John and Kathleen Noonan. (Anniv)

Sunday 25th. MASS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING @ 9am.

Michael, Maudie, and Thomas McDonagh, Greenhills
(28th., 24rd. & 23nd. Anniv)

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

Patrick, Katie, P.J. Byrnes, Liscuib (Anniv) and the deceased members of the Byrnes Family.

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

**Friday 30th Mass at 7pm. Charlie Egan, Carrahulla (27th. Anniv) and the deceased
members of the Egan family.**

Saturday 31st.. Vigil Mass at 7pm. MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.

(NEW YEARS EVE) Michael and Mary Ellen Cooke, Keave (Anniv)
Johnny, Kathleen and Patsy Cooke, Keave.

R.I.P.: Your prayers are requested for Phil Murphy, Kiltormer, and formerly the proprietor of
the Mountbellew Nursing Home, and for Oonagh Beglan, (nee Bennett) Dublin,
niece of Martin and Padraic Kilkenny, Kinreask, who died in the past week.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER:

JOE MURRAY, MARY JENKINS LALLY. (17th., 24th. & 31st.)

St. Stephen's Day Turkey Trot. Walk off the Christmas excess with Woodlawn Heritage

**Group on the Annual Turkey Trot in Woodlawn Woods on St. Stephen's Day at 11am. Free
parking at Train station. Wishing all our members & friends a happy & peaceful Christmas & a
healthy New Year! IF YOUR TURKEY SURVIVED CHRISTMAS, HE WILL NOT BE HARMED.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY GATHERING WITH POPE FRANCIS 2023 in LISBON and FATIMA

**from July 31st – August 8th, 2023. Spiritual Director - Bishop Michael Duignan. OPEN TO
ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 (by 31st July 2023) AND 35. Subsidised Fare €900. For
further information and booking form contact Isabelle at the Clonfert Diocesan Office – Tel. 091
841560 Email. office@clonfertdiocese.ie or your local priest. Limited places available. Bookings
close 31st January 2023. Be there when the world gathers for the unique festival of faith &
friendship.**

**Caltra Cuans Ladies Club: *Caltra Cuans Lady Footballers request all
to join them on December 28th for their Christmas Dance. Music by Jack
Reilly from 9pm in Gerry Macs Bar, Castleblakney. Please support-***

there's a lot of brilliant prizes in our raffle and a great night guaranteed.

St. Michael's.

Fr. Michael Griffin Memorial Church, Gurteen.

(Listen to Mass at 101.4 fm)

EIRCODE H53 PN24

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Saturday 24th. VIGIL MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE @ 9pm.

Sunday 25th. MASS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING @ 11am.

Monday 26th. MASS ON ST. STEPHEN'S MORNING @ 11am.

Paddy and Maura Connor, Tample (Anniv)

Friday 30th. Mass at 8pm. Eugene Hardiman, Clough (Anniv)

John and Kathleen Martyn, Ryehill (Anniv)

Sunday 1st. Mass at 11am. MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD/NEW YEARS DAY

R.I.P.: Your prayers are requested for Eamon Mitchell, Gurteen, who died during the week.

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 19th. DECEMBER WINNING No.'s 6,10,11,25, 1 Lucky Winner, JAMES & MARY DILLEEN, CONGRATS TO THEM. 1 MATCH 3, PADDY & HELEN HILLARY. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY NIGHT 27th. DECEMBER, IN MITCHELL'S, GURTEEN, FOR A JACKPOT OF €2,000. PLAY LOTTO ONLINE @ <http://tinyurl.com/ygppyqc2q>. THE CLUB WISHES ALL OF IT'S MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

ROAD HURLING: This Years Road Hurling event takes place on Tuesday December 27th. commencing @ Ballymacward Church & finishing at Gurteen Church. Teams of 4, Entry Fee per team €50. First team away @ 12noon. Contact Padraic Hillary (087) 9592881 for more information. Why not come out and support them.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMACWARD/GURTEEN. (W/E 17th. & 18th./12/2022)

W/Envelopes.	€209.50	W/Envelopes	€280.00
Loose Plate	€ 17.10	Loose Plate	€ 56.55
8th. DECEMBER	€ 23.00	8th. DECEMBER	€ 2.00
TROCAIRE	€ 20.00	MISSIONS	€ 5.00
CHRISTMAS DAY	€ 25.00	CHRISTMAS DAY	€ 10.00
PRIESTS XMAS	€815.00	PRIESTS XMAS/AUT	€694.00
		MISC + CANDLES	€ 27.95

ACTIVE RETIREMENT: THE AGM OF THE MOUNTBELLEW AND DISTRICT ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION TAKES PLACE ON MONDAY 2nd. JANUARY 2023 @ 8pm in the PASTORAL CENTRE, MOUNTBELLEW, NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

Saint Vincent De Paul Local Annual Appeal : Our Local Conference is based at The Pastoral Centre Mountbellew, we serve the Parish of Ballymacward/Gurteen. To facilitate people who wish to donate Online we have the following Fundraiser Web address: www.svp.ie/stmarysmountbellew (See poster in Church Porch)All donations given locally will be used locally. Our Local Helpline

Number 085 1846866

RUSTIC RHYMES: by John Corbett. Price 10 Euros, continues to be available in local shops & at Salmons. Profits go to Galway Parkinson's Association. Thank you.

Gamblers Anonymous – Want to stop Gambling Helpline 086 349 4450 Weekly Meetings Tuesday GELS Room, Main Street Ballinasloe H53 RC95 @ 8pm.

Walk in the footsteps of the Holy Family this Christmas: An Irish Pilgrimage Guide to the Holy Land is a new book by Michael Kelly, Editor of The Irish Catholic newspaper which explores the places associated with the life of Christ. Michael, who has led many pilgrimages to the Holy Land, says he hopes the book can also act as an 'armchair retreat' for people who cannot travel to the Holy Land bringing the Gospel to life for them. It is available now from all good bookshops, www.columbabooks.com or by calling 01 687 4096 price €16.99/£14.99. An ideal Christmas gift.

New Novena Hymn CD Lizzie Harrison, who used to do Cantor for the Novenas in Esker Monastery in Athenry has brought out a CD of all the old Hymns called "Grace Will Lead Me Home" It would be a lovely Christmas present for someone and 2 Euro from the sale of every CD will go towards the needs of our Ukranian friends and neighbours now living in Esker Monastery. Now available in the following stockists. Loughrea: Billy's, T. L. O'Briens, Loughrea School and Office Supplies. Connaughtons, The abbey shop. Athenry: The Fields of Athenry. Kiltullagh: Duane Daybreak, The Galway Plaza Craughwell: Jody's service station (Supermacs) Portumna: Salmons newsagent, Blas. Killimor: Duffys newsagent

NOTE: The 2023 Church Envelopes are now available for collection/distribution. If any household or individual is not getting a box, and would like to support the upkeep of our Churches and Clergy, please let Fr. Ray or Gerry know and one can be arranged. Thank you.

*O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger*