

**St. Peter and Paul's Church, Ballymacward. EIRCODE H53 YH60**

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

*Contact details for Parish Secretary (087)9322127 or email, [kenpatger@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kenpatger@yahoo.co.uk)*

**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup>. EASTER VIGIL @ 7pm. FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Michael, Bridget and J.G. Queeney, Mounthazel. (Anniv)

**MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup>. MASS @ 9am. EASTER MONDAY.** Mike Gonley, Whitepark (Anniv)

**TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup>. MASS @ 9am. EASTER TUESDAY.**

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup>. MASS @ 9am. EASTER WEDNESDAY.**

**THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup>. MASS @ 9am. EASTER THURSDAY.**

**FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup>. MASS @ 7pm. EASTER FRIDAY.** Margaret Ward, Esker, (Anniv) & Ann Ward, Dublin/Esker (Recently deceased) and deceased members of the Ward Family.  
Fr. Joe Pollard, Castleblakney (Anniv)

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup>. VIGIL MASS @ 7pm. SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER.  
(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)**

**Breeda Laheen, Baunogues (Months Mind)**

**Paddy Joe Laheen, Baunogues (50<sup>th</sup>. Anniv)**

**Jim Gelston, Hampstead (1<sup>st</sup>. Anniv)**

**Paddy O'Brien, Ballinastack (6<sup>th</sup>. Anniv)** we also remember his wife Bernedette, and the deceased members of the O'Brien and Quinn Families.

**MASS SERVERS FOR APRIL: GEORGE KELLY & DARA KILKENNY.**

**READER FOR APRIL BALLYMACWARD: ANN KELLY**

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS APRIL BALLYMAC: TOMAS HILLARY, MARY  
JENKINS LALLY.(11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>. & 25<sup>th</sup>.)**

**SOCIAL CLUB: THIS THURSDAY, the 9<sup>th</sup> of APRIL @ 2-30pm. QUIZ**

**Trócaire** – The annual collection for Trócaire will be taken up at all Ceremonies this the Easter Weekend, and next weekend of (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> April). Thank you for your support of those in need through this worthy charity.

**Feast of Divine Mercy** will be celebrated in the Carmelite Abbey, Loughrea on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.30p.m.

**Menlough Drama:** Menlough Drama Group kindly presents their play **The Pension Plan** by John Mc Dwyer in Menlough Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April @8pm. Doors from 7pm. All proceeds go to **MJ and Ann Ryan Community Support fundraiser.** Please support. For those unable to attend on the night but would like to support the Ryan's following their devastating house fire please visit the idonate page: <https://www.idonate.ie/crowdfunder/communitysupport>  
Your support is greatly appreciated.

**ART CLASS:** Art class starting in Ballymacward Hall on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 7-9 pm. Beginners welcome. Only two places left. For more info. Contact Mary 0876400067.

**BALLYMACWARD/GURTEEN PARISH TRIP TO KNOCK:**

The Social Club is organising a coach trip to Knock on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May. Members of the parish and wider community are warmly invited to join us for this special day. Early booking advised. For further information or to reserve a place, please contact **Esther on (086) 3740809 or Millie on (087) 6920807**

St. Michael's. / Fr. Michael Griffin Memorial Church, Gurteen.

To contact Fr. Raymond Sweeney Ph: (Landline) 090 9687614. or (M) 086 3868169  
PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS . [ballymacwardparish@eircom.net](mailto:ballymacwardparish@eircom.net)  
Contact details for Parish Secretary (087)9322127 or email., [kenpatger@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kenpatger@yahoo.co.uk)

**EASTER SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup>. DAWN MASS @ 6am. CLOONKEENKERRILL**

**CEMETERY.** (Weather permitting, if not Mass in Gurteen Church)

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup>. MASS @ 10am. EASTER SUNDAY.**

John and Paddy Grady, Ballyglass, (Anniv) and the deceased members of the Grady Family.

John, Margaret, Martin & Mary Connor, Killuane and the deceased members, of the Connor Family.

Eileen Kilkenny, Sheeaun (22<sup>nd</sup>. Anniv)

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup>. MASS @ 10am. SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER.**

Mattie King, Sheeaun, Gurteen (5<sup>th</sup>. Anniv)

John McGann, Clough Gurteen (3<sup>rd</sup>. Anniv)

**PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup>. MARCH. WINNING No.'s 15,19,20,21. NO WINNER, & NO MATCH 3's, .NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup>. APRIL. IN "GERRY MAC'S BAR", CASTLEBLAKNEY, FOR A JACKPOT OF €6,600.** Remember you can play by downloading the Club App, Search for PADRAIG PEARSES GAA. CLUB.

**Diocese of Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026,** led by Bishop Michael Duignan departing from Shannon 29 June for 5 nights.

Enquiries contact Society Travel, Ballinasloe 090 9645350 or Joe Walsh Tours 01 2410800

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026:** Calling Young Adults to Join the 2026 Pilgrimage to Lourdes Between the ages of 18 and 25? Interested in joining the Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026 as a member of pilgrimage staff? Become part of the vibrant team assisting pilgrims who otherwise would not be able to travel. For those who have taken part in the past it has been an unforgettable and enriching experience. This year's pilgrimage takes place from 29 June to 4 July. For further information, staff rates, and application forms contact Darina, mob. 085 2288043, email [dmccarthy@clonfertgalway.ie](mailto:dmccarthy@clonfertgalway.ie), or contact your local parish priest.

**YOUTH 2000:** A Youth 2000 day retreat takes place on April 25 at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo. Youth 2000 provides an opportunity for young people (16-35) to develop their relationship with God, learn more about the Catholic faith & meet other young people through a structured retreat programme. Talks, testimonies & games. Donation only. Check out Youth2000.ie to register or contact [connaught@youth2000.ie](mailto:connaught@youth2000.ie) for more Info.

**\*\*\*Specsavers Bingo\*\*\*** The next bingo in Dunmore Town Hall is on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm.** Specsavers Tuam are having a FREE raffle, for everyone in attendance, for a €300 Specsavers voucher. They are also giving out €40 vouchers to everyone. Dunmore Community Council will also be giving away a guaranteed Jackpot of €200! We will also have a raffle on the day for a hamper, a very special bingo hamper and more. Thank you again to Specsavers Tuam. We hope to see you all there Sunday week for a great afternoons entertainment

**TALK ON BREHON LAW** The speaker is the eminent senior Counsel **Mr Brendan Grehan** who will speak to: "An introduction to the Brehon Law, a system of law unique to Ireland, some of its general principles, local connections especially to Park Castle, Clonbern and a modern perspective on relevance in the practice of law today". Friday April 24th ,at 8;00pm in Moylough Community Hall Galway **H53 D981** . All are welcome. Refreshments served/  
**For information: 089 205 3078 or Email:**[moyloughresourcecentre@gmail.com](mailto:moyloughresourcecentre@gmail.com)

### **Easter Greetings from Bishop Michael**

**"The resurrection of Jesus holds out to humanity an antidote to its self-inflicted woes."**

**This Easter, so many places in our world wake up to the sounds of war. Unimaginable destruction. Millions live in terror. Families and nations lie torn apart. Pain and suffering abound. Uncertainty fills the air. Our human family seems to be tearing itself apart. So much is spent on waging death. So little on promoting life. Even we, who are fortunate to live far away, are not immune to the ripples of such self-destructive madness.**

**Our world needs to hear and heed the Easter message. That message given to those who stood before the gates of human suffering and death so many years ago: "There is no need to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen as he said he would" (Matthew 28). For people of faith, these words offer real hope. The resurrection of Jesus holds out to humanity an antidote to its self-inflicted woes. There is indeed a God whose last word is not one of suffering, destruction, and death. A God who brings healing out of suffering, and new life out of destruction and death. A God who, through the power of love, desires a transformation of our own lives and the whole of humanity for the better.**

**This is not just the wishful thinking of his broken friends. A kind of "fake news." It is real! It is true! In the words of that ancient Easter greeting: "Christ is risen!" – "He is risen indeed!" Risen, alive, and gently present among us. In the depths of our often lonely and confused human hearts, he invites us to befriend him. He points to a better way: the way of selfless love alone has the power to bring about true human transformation and that peace the world cannot give (John 14). That peace that every human heart, and our world, so greatly desires. If only we would truly hear, if only we would truly heed.**

**Wishing you all, and, in particular, those who have just been baptised into faith in the Risen Lord, all God's blessings this Easter and always! Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!**

**+ *Michael***

**Bishop of Clonfert**

**Bishop of Galway and Kilmacduagh**

**Apostolic Administrator of Kilfenor**

**HRC Past Pupils' Gathering "Class of 1981 to 1986:**

Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew - Class of 1981 to 1986 are holding a 40 Year Past Pupil Reunion on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**. This will be an opportunity for classmates to meet up and take a trip down memory lane. Light refreshments will be served on the night. For more Information Contact Claire Healy 085 7471916

**Join this year's Young Adult Camino Pilgrimage** (ages 18–35), 11th–20th July 2026. Walk the final 100km from Sarria to Santiago with Bishop Michael Duignan. Step out in faith and experience the grace of the Camino. Includes flights, accommodation and visit to Finisterre Contact [youthpilgrimage@clonfertgalway.ie](mailto:youthpilgrimage@clonfertgalway.ie)

**The Galway branch of MS Ireland** are holding a fundraising walk on Easter Monday on the prom in Salthill from 12 noon until 2pm. Registration for the walk is in the Salthill Hotel from 11.30, refreshments afterwards. Please join us. Contact nos. Mary 086 3489730 Ann 087 6186268

**National Learning Network Athlone** is offering places on the Landscape Maintenance\ Horticulture and Gardening course for our centre in Blyry. Potential students who need an occupational intervention in their lives from mental wellbeing or learning support point of view can Contact 0860114368 (Martin) ASAP, Martin will explore with you the possibilities for your future. 16 to 65 years of age qualify, QQI level 4 Qualification if desired. This is a Free course and all your payments and entitlements will be protected. National Learning Network has lots of other courses for people who needs support and help with life and career. Please contact 086 0114368.

**HopeSpace** supports children and young people (4-17 years) grieving the loss of someone they love. We provide a free one-to-one in person listening service in a confidential, caring and supportive environment. Contact Áine at [support@hopespace.ie](mailto:support@hopespace.ie) or call 091 342566/087 4667506 for more details

**Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme** launched in March 2024 following the Government agreed actions arising from the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes and certain related matters. The Payment scheme provides financial payments, and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions in Ireland. Eligibility criteria can be found online, and applications can be made via an online portal (website below) or by post Visit: [www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/](http://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/) Contact Helpline: 01 522 9922 (call to request application pack) All applications are handled with care, dignity and full confidentiality

**"Have you ever thought about fostering?"** Change a child's life by becoming a Tusla Foster Carer. Talk to Tusla Fostering today by freephone 1800 226 771 or visit [www.fostering.ie](http://www.fostering.ie) to learn more.