

St. Peter and Paul's Church, Ballymacward.

EIRCODE H53 YH60

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

PARISH WEBSITE: ballymacwardgurteenparish.com (Listen to Mass at 101.4 fm)

Contact details for Parish Secretary (087)9322127 or email, kenpatger@yahoo.co.uk

SUNDAY 10th. MORNING MASS @ 10am. NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Mass for the people of the parish.

MONDAY 11th. Mass at 9am. Mary Dwyer, Ballymacward (5th. Anniv)

FRIDAY 15th. MORNING MASS @ 10am. Special Intention.

FRIDAY 15th. AUGUST CLOONKEENKERRILL CEMETERY MASS @ 7pm.

(A Collection will be taken up at this Mass for the upkeep of the cemetery.)

SUNDAY 17th. MORNING MASS @ 10am. TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Gabriel Byrnes, Attyregan (9th. Anniv)

R.I.P.: Your prayers are requested for Pat Ruane, Menlough, Brother of Mrs. Mary Kilkenny, Kinreask, and Mrs. Breege Connaughton, Cloonkeenkerrill, who died in the past week.

MASS SERVERS FOR AUGUST:

TREVOR & KENNETH HARLOWE

READER FOR AUGUST.

MAJELLA CAMPBELL.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR AUGUST:

SEAN HOGAN, BERNIE MORRISSEY. (3rd., 10th. & 15th. Holy Day)

ANNE KINDREGAN, MAURA MURRAY. (17th. 24th. & 31st.)

FOROIGE: FOROIGE IS A YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP THAT GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE A CHANCE TO MEET AND SOCIALISE TOGETHER IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT. IN ORDER TO RE-START A FOROIGE CLUB IN THE PARISH, WE NEED THE SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP ORGANISE EVENTS, AND SUPERVISE. A MEETING WILL BE HELD IN BALLYMACWARD HALL ON **THIS MONDAY THE 11th. AUGUST @ 8-30pm.** PLEASE COME ALONG, AND HELP US GET STARTED. OUR YOUTH NEED OUR SUPPORT.

KNOCK NOVENA: The Annual Knock Novena, which this year is entitled "PILGRIMS OF HOPE" takes place from next Wednesday 13th. August to Thursday 21st. August. Daily ceremonies @ 3pm. & 8pm. For full details of all events taking place, plus a list of the guest speakers, visit www.knockshrine.ie

DUNMORE BINGO: There Festival Bingo takes place **this Sunday August 10th in the Town Hall, Dunmore at 3pm.** Lots of prizes on the day including a **€500 jackpot.** Raffle for hampers, etc. Draw for a free double book, single book, lucky line sheet and Jackpot sheet. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served at the interval. Please support them.. Everyone is welcome.

Heritage Week 2025. Moylough Heritage Society is hosting a talk by Frank Coyne, Aegis Archaeology on **Thursday August 21st at 8pm in Moylough Community Centre.** Title of talk "A conservation and Management Plan for Moylough Castle". All are welcome. Refreshments served afterwards.

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

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SATURDAY 9th. VIGIL MASS 7pm. NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Mary Connor, Killuane (1st. Anniv)

NOTE: There will be NO STREAMING of this Mass, as the Camera is faulty at present, we hope to have it up and running again for next weekend.

FRIDAY 15th. AUGUST CLOONKEENKERRILL CEMETERY MASS @ 7pm.

(A Collection will be taken up at this Mass for the upkeep of the cemetery.)

SATURDAY 16th. VIGIL MASS 7pm. TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Bridie Finnerty, Clough (Anniv) and the deceased members of the Finnerty Family.

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 4th. JULY. WINNING No.'s 7,9,21,27. NO WINNER, & 4 MATCH 3's. MAURA CARR, LONAN BRODERICK, AOIFE DONNELLAN, & THOMAS KENNY (Killconnell) NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY 11th. AUGUST. IN "THE LOCAL BAR", BALLYMACWARD, FOR A JACKPOT OF €3,200. Thanks for your continuing support.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMAC/GURTEEN. WEEK ENDING 02/03 – 08/25

Envelopes.	€474.50	W/Envelopes	€266.50
Loose Plate	€141.24	Loose Plate	€ 56.85
		PRIESTS SUM/EAST	€ 100.00
		PRIESTS RETIREM	€ 20.00
15 th . AUGUST	€ 5.00	LOURDES	€ 5.00

RCIA 2025/2026 – Thinking of Becoming Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for adults who: – have never been baptised – belong to another Christian tradition – are baptised Catholics but haven't received confirmation or Eucharist. The new journey begins this autumn.

To find out more, contact the parish or email rcia@anghailil.ie

Mountbellew CE Scheme Vacancies. Maintenance Workers/ General Operatives.

Duties to include: Working in Mountbellew with responsibility for cutting grass, litter control, keeping public areas tidy and general maintenance around the town. Working on the environmental sites. Further details from **Sean O' Neill on 090 9679085**

/0871209739 or email mountbellewdd@gmail.com

The annual Step by Step to Feed the Next Child - Mary's Meals Walk from Limerick to Knock Shrine will arrive in Galway on Monday 11th August from Athenry and leave Galway again on Tuesday 12th August for Abbeyknockmoy. Walkers will travel from 7 different locations across Ireland from the 7th August, all meeting in Knock on Friday 15th August. Mary's Meals is a simple solution to world hunger, feeding hungry children in their place of education in 16 of the world's poorest countries. €22 will feed a child for an entire school year. Please go to marysmeals.ie to learn more and support this amazing charity. Any donation, big or small, is very welcome.

Gaza: “Words are not enough!” – Irish Bishops call for solidarity at parish level

Bishops stated the following concerning the humanitarian disaster in Gaza:

“In Gaza people are starving and adequate aid is being denied; it seems clear that famine is being used as a weapon of war. Already over 600,000 Palestinians have been displaced. The evidence points to a staged strategy of ethnic cleansing aimed at removing the Palestinian people from their homes and their homeland. It is becoming increasingly clear to people on the ground that these are genocidal actions sanctioned by the Government of Israel.

“What is happening in Gaza – and the West Bank – is the death of tens of thousands of noncombatants, many of them women and children. This is unconscionable and disproportionate. It is immoral for world leaders to stand by inactively in the face of this outrageous tragedy for humanity.

“Words are not enough! There is an urgent need for the international community to intervene, cut off arms supplies and bring the carnage to an end. This will call for courage on the part of leaders. Examples of courage are being given every day by heroic doctors, nurses and aid workers risking their lives in service of the wounded and those who have been displaced.”

As noted already, bishops offered prayers for the people of Gaza and Ukraine as well as other troubled places in the world. In relation to the deteriorating situation in Gaza they noted that as of early June 2025, the humanitarian crisis there has intensified dramatically. To date, almost 55,000 people have been killed in Gaza and the West Bank, since the horrific events of 7 October 2023.

Bishops welcomed the response to their call in their statement of 26 May for a ‘Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace’ in Gaza on Friday last, 6 June. The entire month of June, the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, should be a time of special prayer for peace. All parishes are asked to give expression to their solidarity with the suffering people of Gaza during June.

Bishops continued, “People in parishes across the country are horrified by what they are witnessing. They may feel helpless. But they can show their solidarity in different ways by lobbying their political representatives, by supporting humanitarian aid and, above all, by continuing to pray for an end to the conflict now and the resumption of peace, including the return of all hostages and prisoners.”

Bishops listened again to the recent words of Pope Leo XIV and resonated with them: “In the Gaza Strip, the cry of mothers, of fathers who clutch the lifeless bodies of children and who are continually forced to move in search of a little food and safer shelter from bombing, rises ever more intensely to the sky. I renew my appeal to the leaders: cease-fire, release all hostages, fully respect humanitarian law. Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us.” (General Audience, 28 May 2025). For media contact the Catholic Communications Office, Maynooth: Martin Long +353 (0) 86 172 7678, Chah Garde +353 (0) 86 818 9780

Abide in His Love Women's Conference happening for a second year – November 21-23 A beautiful event for women exploring the beauty and gift of their feminine identity in Christ. Check out Eventbrite link for tickets and more information

- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/abide-in-his-love-womens-conference-2025-tickets-1283997654549?aff=ebdssbcategorybrowse>

Westcare Homecare are currently recruiting staff in your local area and would love to hear from interested applicants. To apply or find out more, please contact recruitment@westcarehomecare.ie or call 071 9300034.

Men's Development Network – Male Advice Line Domestic abuse doesn't discriminate. If you're a man facing abuse, you're not alone. We're here to help. Call our Male Advice Line: 1800 816 588 Visit: <https://mensnetwork.ie/> Our confidential service provides support, advice, and a listening ear to male victims of domestic abuse. Seeking help is a sign of strength, and we're here to guide you every step of the way.

HopeSpace CLG provides a free one-to-one listening service for children and young people (4-17 years old) who are impacted by grief caused by bereavement. See hopespace.ie, contact Áine at support@hopespace.ie or call 091 342566/087 4667506 for more details.'

ACCORD Ballinasloe are committed to providing a professional counselling service for individuals and couples who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage and relationships. This confidential service is available and affordable. CONTACT 090 9643573 for appointment or E-mail ballinasloeaccord@eircom.net

JUBILEE YEAR: The Ordinary Jubilee Year takes place every twenty five years. It is a special time of reconciliation with God and with one another. During the Jubilee Year 2025, the Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas, Galway and the Cathedral of St Brendan, Loughrea, have been dedicated as special places of pilgrimage where the Holy Year Indulgence may be obtained. www.galwaydiocese.ie / www.clonfertdiocese.ie

ACCORD: Accord now seeking marriage preparation facilitators. Might this be you? Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. If you:

- are supportive of marriage in the Catholic Church; and,
 - have the enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team that supports couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage ... then Accord wishes to hear from you!
- An Accord marriage preparation facilitator is a personally fulfilling role, blending life experience and faith. Successful applicants will receive professional training in the Accord marriage preparation programme and be part of a team delivering programmes locally. Contact Aisling on 01 505 3112 or by email to marriagepreparation@accord.ie and for further information see www.accord.ie

Pilgrims of Hope 2025

Loving Father, we come before you,
in this Jubilee Year. Our hearts are full of longing.
Now is the time to lay the past to rest.
Today is the day for a new beginning.
Breathe on us Spirit of God.
Inspire us. Strengthen us.
Help us to follow ever more closely the example of Jesus, your Son.
Help us to love you with all our heart.
Help us to care for one another.
In a world upset by war and discord,
we beg for the gift of lasting peace.
With Mother Mary by our side, may we journey together
as pilgrims of hope on the road of life.
We ask this of you, O loving Father, through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Prayer for Vocations in the Diocese of Clonfert

Lord of the Harvest,
Bless young people in the Diocese of Clonfert with the gift of
Courage to respond to your call of service.
Open their hearts to great ideals and wonderful things.
Inspire all of your disciples to mutual love and giving;
For vocations blossom in the rich soil of faithful people.
Inspire priests and religious, all our parishioners and families
With the confidence and grace to invite our young people
To consider the exciting and noble path of life dedicated and consecrated to You.
Unite us to Jesus Through prayer and sacrament,
So that we may cooperate With you in building your kingdom of
Mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

