

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

Gabriel Byrnes, Attyregan (9th. Anniv)

MONDAY 18th. Mass at 9am. Kathleen Corduff.

TUESDAY 19th. Mass at 9am. Claire Flynn, Ballymacward (3rd. Anniv)

FRIDAY 22nd. Mass at 7pm. Mary Ann Commings, Alloon (1st. Anniv)

SUNDAY 24th. MORNING MASS @ 10am. TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Seamus and Kathleen Keane, Mounthazel (2nd. and 3rd. Anniv)

Margaret Fahy, Lisloughlin (5th. Anniv)

John Joe Jenkins, Ballinastack (35th. Anniv)

R.I.P.: Your prayers are requested for Mrs. Kathleen Campbell, (Nee Donoghue)

Killconnell, Sister of the late Halo Donoghue, Alloon, who died in the past week.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR AUGUST:

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

KILLAAN CEMETERY MASS: Mass will be held on **FRIDAY 22nd. AUGUST** @ 8pm

VOLUNTEER IN THE BALLYMACWARD COMMUNITY

Our Ballymacward Hall Management Committee always has a requirement for Volunteers. We have a small team of committee members who keep the hall open for the community to use. Working closely with our local FAS team the hall is cleaned and set up for weekly use of Bowls, Fitness Classes, Yoga, Social Club, Bridge Club, Childrens' Dance lessons. The hall is also available for use following church events and masses.

Our monthly family bingo is always a lively event with a large attendance - we always require more volunteers to help out with set up, book sales, raffle ticket sales, call backs, teas. It is a great opportunity to meet members of the community. Perhaps you are new to the area, have recently retired or want to become more involved locally.

Please contact **SUSAN JOHN on 085 2622112 or MARY GORMAN on 087 6400067** for further information or to join our team.

HERITAGE WEEK WALK: "Woodlawn Heritage Week Walk and Talk will take place on **SUNDAY 24th August 2025**. Meet at Woodlawn Train Station Carpark @ **3pm**. Among places visited will be the Trench Family Mausoleum, & the Historic Graves in Woodlawn churchyard. Refreshments will be served in the churchyard afterwards"

Mountbellew Ag. Show, will be held on Saturday 23rd. August in the Mountbellew Ag. College. Dog Entries taken on Show Day. Great Family Day Out. Free children's entertainment including magic and puppet shows & pony rides. Fashion Show. For more information & details on classes etc, please see our website mountbellewagrishow.ie

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

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

Breda Keating, (Nee Naughton) Colemanstown (10th. Anniv)

SATURDAY 23rd. VIGIL MASS 7pm. TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Maureen and Paddy Carr, Gurteen (7th. and 14th. Anniv)

Triona and Peter Lally, Killuane (28th. and 29th.Anniv)

Paddy McGee, Cappalusk (18th. Anniv)

Tom and Kathleen Dempsey, Kinreask (Anniv)

KNOCK NOVENA: The Annual Knock Novena, which this year is entitled "PILGRIMS OF HOPE" continues until next 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

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 11th. JULY. WINNING No.'s 2,5,6,25. NO WINNER, & 1 MATCH 3. MICHAEL LALLY. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY 18th. AUGUST. IN "RUANE'S BAR", GLENTANE, FOR A JACKPOT OF €3,300. Thanks for your continuing support.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMAC/GURTEEN. WEEK ENDING 09/10 – 08/25

Envelopes.	€521.00	W/Envelopes	€275.04
Loose Plate	€ 3.00	Loose Plate	€ 75.00
		PRIESTS SUMMER	€ 30.00
		ACCORD	€ 20.00
		TROCAIRE	€ 24.61
POPES	€ 15.00	POPES	€ 20.00

ACN Pilgrimage to Knock: Papal charity Aid to the Church in Need Ireland invites people to join their national pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on **Saturday August 30** to highlight the plight of Christians who suffer persecution for their faith throughout the world. Mass is in the basilica at 3pm. All welcome. For more info.see www.acnireland.org

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

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

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

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.

