

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 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)

Michael Dillon, Liscuib (47th. Anniv)

MONDAY 25th. Mass at 9am.

FRIDAY 29th. Mass at 7pm. James "Jimmy" & Pat Costello, Boston, formally Liscuib.

SUNDAY 31st. MORNING MASS @ 10am. TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Walter Pritchard, Carrahulla (1st. Anniv)

Dympna Power, Nee Madden, Alloon (3rd. Anniv)

P.J., and Annie Mai Byrnes, Liscuib (Anniv) and the deceased members of the Byrnes Family.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR AUGUST:

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

BALLYMACWARD NATIONAL SCHOOL: Ballymacward NS reopens on

Tuesday 26th August. We welcome 9 Junior Infants and 2 children into other classes. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

HERITAGE WEEK WALK: "Woodlawn Heritage Week Walk and Talk takes place this **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"

BINGO: How the month is flying, just a week to go till our 1st. ANNIVERSARY BINGO on SUNDAY 31ST. AUGUST. @ 7pm. JACKPOT must go on the night, plus extra FREE games. PUT IT IN THE DIARY / DON'T MISS IT.

SOCIAL CLUB: IT'S BACK ON **THURSDAY 4th. SEPTEMBER**, STARTING WITH BINGO. (Ye know the lingo, two little ducks, legs 11, etc) PUT THE DATE IN YERE DIARIES, TELL YERE FRIENDS, THE COMMITTEE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ALL BACK, NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT: The SEPTEMBER meeting of Mountbellew & District Active Retirement will be held in the Pastoral Centre, Mountbellew on Monday 1st. SEPTEMBER @ 8pm. New members welcome.

Together We Can Concert: for Children in Cambodia (BFT) on Saturday 11th October at the Dean Crowe Theatre, Athlone. Artists appearing are: Shaskeen, MegaTrad, Trish Reilly and Sarah Clogher Dancers. Doors open 7 pm Concert starts at 8 pm. Tickets online www.deancrowetheatre.com or theatre office: 090 6492129.

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

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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)

SATURDAY 30th. VIGIL MASS 7pm. TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Paddy and Margaret Bermingham (Anniv)

Pake Connors (Anniv)

R.I.P.: Your prayers are requested for Mrs. Kathleen Corduff, (Nee Houston) Dublin, Sister of Rosaleen Devally, Colemanstown, who died in the past week.

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 18th. JULY. WINNING No.'s 10,22,23,24. NO WINNER, & 1 MATCH 3. FIONA WARD. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY 25th. AUGUST. IN "GERRY McDONAGHS BAR", CASTLEBLAKNEY, FOR A JACKPOT OF €3,400. Thanks for your support.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMAC/GURTEEN. WEEK ENDING 16/17 – 08/25

Envelopes.	€463.50	W/Envelopes	€159.00
Loose Plate	€ 36.50	Loose Plate	€ 68.60
PRIESTS SUMMER	€ 15.00	PRIESTS SUMMER	€ 10.00
CANDLES	€173.87		
15 th . AUGUST	€137.70	15 th . AUGUST	€ 78.80

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

'Exploring God's Desire For Us & Our Desire For God', a retreat-style experience with Fr. Stephen Cummins OP, Fri. 26th & Sat. 27th Sept. See www.creideamh.ie/retreat. Early booking advised.

Faith & Fun Club: Does your family have a child in 3rd, 4th or 5th Class who you would like to support grow in faith in age-appropriate, fun & enjoyable ways? Visit www.creideamh.ie/cfm to learn more about Ballinasloe Come Follow Me Faith & Fun Club. Meetings begin in Sept.

Burren Outdoor Retreat: 5th to 7th September. A guided 3-day journey to some of the most secret and sacred places in the Burren. Let the beauty of this amazing landscape renew you in body and soul. Enquiries: Mary 087 970 1130/booking: Noirin 087 447 9115

Young Adult Catholic Conference 30 August 2025 - Legion of Mary 'On Mission With Mary' is a conference on faith and culture for young adults (18-40) with talks, prayer, Mass, confession, workshops, food and social in the historic Legion of Mary headquarters at De Montfort House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7. It will be a chance to build faith in friendship with young adults from across the country. The one-day conference takes place on Saturday 30 August from 9.30am to 5.30am with a social afterward. Tickets cost €20 and can be booked on the eventbrite website by looking up 'On Mission With Mary'. Any queries can be directed towards deusetpatria@gmail.com.

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=ebdssbccategorybrowse>

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.

