

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](http://ballymacwardgurteenparish.com) (Listen to Mass at 101.4 fm)

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

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup>. MORNING MASS @ 10am.** SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Michael Harte, Garafine (45<sup>th</sup>. Anniv)

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. Mass at 9am.**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>. Mass at 7pm. FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>. MORNING MASS @ 10am.** EIGHTTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Special Intention.

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>. KILLUANE CEMETERY MASS @ 7pm.**

**CEMETERY MASSES 2025:**

**CLOONKEENKERRILL CEMETERY: FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup>. AUGUST.**

**READER FOR AUGUST.**

**AINE HILLARY/KELLY**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR AUGUST:**

**SEAN HOGAN, BERNIE MORRISSEY. (3<sup>rd</sup>., 10<sup>th</sup>. & 15<sup>th</sup>. Holy Day)**

**ANNE KINDREGAN, MAURA MURRAY. (17<sup>th</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>. & 31<sup>st</sup>.)**

**BINGO: FAMILY BINGO THIS SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup>. JULY IN BALLYMAC HALL,  
DOORS OPEN @ 6pm. GAME STARTS @ 7pm. Sharp. We look  
forward to seeing you all, great evening guaranteed. Best of luck to all.**

**FUNDRAISER: "Cancer Care West Cycle&Run/Walk Charity Fundraiser taking  
place in Ballymacward. H53YF82. Please Join us on August 9<sup>th</sup>. from 9am. All  
welcome." More information next week.**

**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](mailto:mountbellewdd@gmail.com)

**COFFEE MORNING: The Rothar Cycling Club & friends are holding a Coffee morning in aid of East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support on THIS SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup>. JULY from 10am to 1pm in NEW INN COMMUNITY CENTRE. Please support. Everyone is welcome.**

**Galway Cathedral Recitals have resumed this summer with another wonderful programme of organ music. Concerts will take place Thursdays at 8pm from July 3rd to August 7th. For more information please visit [recitals.galwaycathedral.ie](http://recitals.galwaycathedral.ie).**

**Come and celebrate our Catholic faith on Slane Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August - the hill where St Patrick lit the first Paschal fire in 433AD. This is a divine invitation to witness the Archbishop of Armagh symbolically light the fire of faith, hope and love, first kindled by our patron saint. Eurovision's Dana will sing her song for St Patrick, Light the Fire. Gathering begins at noon and includes mass, Eucharistic healing, praise and worship and Rosary. More info at [lightthefire.ie](http://lightthefire.ie) or email [info@lightthefire.ie](mailto:info@lightthefire.ie)**

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

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**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup>. VIGIL MASS 7pm.** SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Michael and Mary Noone, Carhoon. / George and Mary Walker, Ballinasloe.

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>. VIGIL MASS 7pm.** EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Jimmy, Betty & Edward Costello, Ballinasloe. / Margaret Costello (Nee Ruane, Liscune)

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>. KILLUANE CEMETERY MASS @ 7pm.**

**PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup>. JULY. WINNING No.'s 13,21,22,26. NO WINNER, & 1 MATCH 3. MICHELLE LAHEEN. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup>. JULY. IN "McGANN'S BAR", ATTYMON, FOR A JACKPOT OF €3,000.** Thanks for your continuing support.

**Pilgrims of Hope Reek Sunday on Croagh Patrick** falls on 27 July with the theme of 'Christian Hope'. The 1,600 year-old pilgrimage will have Mass celebrated on the hour at the summit of Ireland's 'Holy Mountain' from 8.00am to 2.00pm, and Confessions will be heard from 7.30am to 2.00pm. All are welcome – especially families – be safety aware when preparing for the climb, see details on [www.westportparish.ie](http://www.westportparish.ie).

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMAC/GURTEEN. WEEK ENDING 19/20 – 07/25**

Envelopes.	€432.68	W/Envelopes	€285.00
Loose Plate	€ 55.62	Loose Plate	€ 63.00
		PRIESTS SUMMER	€ 10.00
ACCORD	€ 20.00	ACCORD	€ 24.00

**Grandparents and the Elderly:** Join us at Knock Shrine! Sunday 27 July at 2:30pm. Celebrate the National Grandparents Pilgrimage and the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. A day of grace, blessings and prayer for families, our church and our future. All are welcome, bring your family – Bring hope and joy – anointing Mass, Rosary (weather permitting) Celebrant: Archbishop Francis Duffy, Music: Una Nolan and choirs guest soloist Dana. Visit our website for resources:

[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

**Clonfert Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** from August 6th -11th. Travel from Shannon airport. Buses provided from Ballinasloe - Loughrea. Medical assistance provided with pilgrimage doctor and staff. Sick pilgrims especially welcome to this place of healing. Further enquiries contact Society Travel, Ballinasloe 090 9645350.

**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>

## **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**

**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](mailto: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](https://hopespace.ie), contact Áine at [support@hopespace.ie](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.galwaydiocese.ie) / [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://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](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie) and for further information see [www.accord.ie](http://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.

