

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 15<sup>th</sup>. MORNING MASS @ 10am. THE HOLY TRINITY.**

Mass for the people of the Parish.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. Mass at 9am.** Bridgie and Jackie Dooley, Annagh (Anniv) and their Daughter Marian Staunton, Moylough.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>. Mass at 9am. NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART.**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. Mass at 7pm. NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART.**

Katie Kelly, Whitepark (Anniv) and her parents Malachy and Bridget Kelly, Liscune.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>. FUNERAL MASS @ 12pm (Noon) for SEAN CHEEVERS, GARAFINE. (With Burial afterwards in the New Cemetery)**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>. MORNING MASS @ 10am. THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

(NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART)

Frank Gilmore, Mounthazel (1<sup>st</sup>. Anniv).

Ciss Kelly, Attyregan (34<sup>th</sup>. Anniv)

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR JUNE;** JUSTIN DORAN, SEAN HOGAN  
(22<sup>nd</sup>. & 29<sup>th</sup>.)

### **Think Smart Cyber Safety Community Talk**

**FREE CYBER SAFETY EVENT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS & TEACHERS**

will be held on Monday June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at The Holy Rosary College Mountbellew. THE TALK WILL BE DELIVERED BY Cyber Security Expert Aoife Noone, WITH GUEST SPEAKERS, Elaine Quinn (Child & Adolescent Therapist) and Detective Garda Deirdre Holland from The Garda National Cybercrime Bureau. PLEASE JOIN US ON THE EVENING, ALL ARE WELCOME. "BE ACTIVE - BE AWARE" Help protect our youth's online. Email [info@thinksmartcyber.com](mailto:info@thinksmartcyber.com) to reserve your seat.

**This year's Day for Life, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025,** is an invitation to pray for those who suffer and to remain with them like the Good Samaritan, bearing witness to their unique and unrepeatable value. We see this closeness in the generous and fruitful service of healthcare professionals, whose mission continues even when there is no longer any prospect of physical healing. We see it in another way in families, carers and chaplains who support their brothers and sisters who are sick or frail or struggling with the many burdens of life. As Christians, we affirm them and hold out to them the hope of Jesus Christ who does not disappoint us. To read the full bishops' message visit [www.councilforlife.ie](http://www.councilforlife.ie)

**The National Pilgrimage for Life,** organised by the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, will be celebrated on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June in Knock Shrine. Mass will be celebrated at 3pm in the Basilica, during which the Anointing of the Sick will take place. Main celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Martin Hayes. We invite you to join us in Knock to celebrate the gift of life and to pray for the protection of all human life.

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

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**SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup>. VIGIL MASS 7pm. THE MOST HOLY TRINITY.**

Paul and Renee Ryan, Gortnalone (1<sup>st</sup>. & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anniv)

**SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup>. VIGIL MASS 7pm. (NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART)  
THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

Ned Burke, Tample (22<sup>nd</sup>. Anniv)

Sr. Imelda Burke, and the deceased members of the Burke Family.

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMAC/GURTEEN. W/E 07/06/25 & 08/06/2025**

Envelopes.	€500.40	W/Envelopes	€275.55
Loose Plate	€ 34.53	Loose Plate	€218.45
SPECIAL MISSIONS	€ 10.00		
PRIESTS RETIRE	€ 15.00	PRIESTS RETIRE	€ 5.00
PRIESTS SUMMER	€706.00	PRIESTS SUMMER	€315.00
PRIESTS EASTER	€180.00		
MISC. COLLECTIONS	€ 4.00		

**PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO:** RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup>. JUNE. WINNING No.'s 5,15,16,28. NO WINNER, & 2 MATCH 3's DEARBHAL McDONAGH, MICHAEL KELLY. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>. JUNE. IN "McGANN'S BAR", ATTYMON, FOR A JACKPOT OF €2,400. Thanks for your continuing support.

**Fr Peyton Centre Rosary on the Reek**, Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> Croagh Patrick is a Pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year. Meet in the Car Park at 9.30am, climb at 10am Rosary at the summit at 12noon. Information: contact Fina 096 45 374 [fina@fatherpeytoncentre.ie](mailto:fina@fatherpeytoncentre.ie)

**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.

**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.

## **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

**Road to Renewal** brings together holistic therapists with a shared goal of supporting our community. There will be a fundraising event in aid of the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre in Ballinasloe on Sunday 22nd June from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe. It promises to be a meaningful day focused on wellness, healing and community spirit. Contact Sharon Kennedy 087 4143621

**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.

### **A Prayer for Exam Time**

Lord,  
Be with me in this moment.  
Calm my thoughts, steady my breath.  
Help me to recall what I've learned,  
To think clearly,  
To stay focused.  
Give me the peace to face what's ahead,  
The confidence to try,  
And the grace to accept whatever comes.  
Let my work be honest.  
Let my effort be enough.  
Amen.

**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.

