

St. Peter and Paul's Church, Ballymacward. EIRCODE H53 YH60

(Listen to Mass at 101.4 fm)

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

PARISH WEBSITE: ballymacwardgurteenparish.com

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS . ballymacwardparish@eircom.net

- Saturday 13th. **Vigil Mass at 8pm. SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER.**
Johnny, Paddy, Jimmy, & Frank O'Neill, Garafine (Anniv)
Maudie Healy, Liscune (7th. Anniv)
- Monday 15th. **Mass at 9am.**
- Tuesday 16th. **Mass at 9am.**
- Friday 19th. **CONFIRMATION IN BALLYMACWARD @ 11am.**
- Friday 19th. **Mass at 7pm.** Joan O'Brien, Esker (12th. Anniv)
- Saturday 20th. **Vigil Mass at 8pm. THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD.**
J.P. & Margaret Kelly, Clongowna (Anniv)
Michael Naughton, Corskegh (19th. Anniv)
- Sunday 21st. **CLONFERT DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK, LED BY BISHOP MICHAEL, WITH CEREMONIES STARTING @ 2-30pm. HOPE AS MANY PEOPLE FROM THE PARISH AS POSSIBLE CAN MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE ON THE DAY.**

R.I.P.: Your prayers are requested for Mary Joe Skehill, New Inn, Mother of Peter Skehill, Gurteen, and Sister of Chrissie Kelly, Carana, and for Essie Stapleton, Clontuskert (Nee Egan, Carrahulla) who died during the week.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MAY: ANNE KINDREGAN, ROSE KELLY. (20th./27th.)

BALLYMACWARD/GURTEEN SOCIAL CLUB: Thursday 18th. May, BINGO.

Launch of the New Faith Community Areas for the Diocese of Clonfert

Will take place on the Feast of St Brendan (Our Diocesan Patron), Tuesday 16th of May 2023 at 7.30pm with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael at the Shrine of Our Lady of Clonfert. All are welcome for this most important celebration.

This important initiative marks a closer coming together of our parishes into three faith community areas centred on the deanery towns of Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Portumna. Over time, it is hoped that the sharing of priests, personnel, resources and talent will mean that parishes working closer together will be able to achieve more than they could on their own.

Becoming Human, Becoming Divine – Possessing Our Easter Identity

This six-session initiative will run (8 – 9.30 pm) in Clonfert Family Centre, continues this **Sunday** evening, and will run every Sunday until MAY 30th. It draws on the insights of Blessed Columba Marmion, an Irish monk who is internationally recognised as one of the great spiritual writers of the twentieth century. All welcome and participants can anticipate some very interesting conversations. For more info see www.creideamh.ie/human-divine<<http://www.creideamh.ie/human-divine>>

Clonfert Diocesan Children's Art Competition 2023

We are delighted to announce the Clonfert Diocesan Children's Art Competition that aspires to encourage children in 3rd to 6th Classes to give expression to their religious awareness, artistic abilities and faith. Details, including access to an introductory PowerPoint Presentation, are available at: www.creideamh.ie/clonfert-art . The competition will conclude with a prize-giving ceremony during a Social Gathering 8 to 9 pm in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe, on Friday 16th June, the Feast day of the Sacred Heart.

St. Michael's.

Fr. Michael Griffin Memorial Church, Gurteen. EIRCODE H53 PN24

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Sunday 14th. Mass at 10am. **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER.**
Mary and Bernard (Bernie) Naughton, Colemanstown (4th. and 23rd. Anniv)

Friday 19th. **CONFIRMATION IN BALLYMACWARD @ 11am.**

Friday 19th. Mass at 8pm. Joe Molloy, Gurteen (First Anniv)

Sunday 21st. Mass at 10am. **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD.**

Michael Griffen, Gurteen (5th. Anniv)

Maree Deeley, New Inn/Killuane (Anniv)

Emily Stephens (Anniv) and the deceased members of the Corbett, Keeley, Stephens and Deeley families.

Sunday 21st. **CLONFERT DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK, LED BY BISHOP MICHAEL, WITH CEREMONIES STARTING @ 2-30pm. HOPE AS MANY PEOPLE FROM THE PARISH AS POSSIBLE CAN MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE ON THE DAY.**

THANK YOU: €350.00 has been sent to the Columban Missioneries in Peru.

St. Kerrill's Festival : St. Kerrill's Festival returns this year to celebrate 30 years since the first festival. If you have any photos from the first festival in 1993 please contact Joan Hogan at 086 8900559 or Noel Burke on 087 6351403.

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 8th. MAY WINNING No.'s 2,5,7,26, NO Winner, 2 MATCH 3's, TOMMY McDONAGH, & PAT BURKE. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY NIGHT 15th. MAY, IN BURKE'S, COLEMANSTOWN, FOR A JACKPOT OF €4,000 PLAY LOTTO ONLINE @

<http://tinyurl.com/ygpyqc2q>

Pearses Camogie Club Clothes Collection Please drop off any clean clothes, shoes, towels or linen to the clubhouse in Gurteen at the following times: **Sunday 14th May 10am-11:30am.**

Wednesday 17th May 7pm - 8pm Thursday 18th May 7pm - 8pm Friday 19th May 10am - 11am

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMACWARD/GURTEEN. W/E 06/05/23 & 07/05/2023

W/Envelopes.	€331.20	W/Envelopes	€345.70
Loose Plate	€ 21.00	Loose Plate	€ 53.70
ST. PATRICKS	€ 3.00		
HOLY PLACES	€ 5.00	HOLY PLACES	€ 5.00
PRIESTS EASTER	€ 70.00		
PRIESTS RETIREMENT	€106.20	PRIESTS RETIREMENT	€250.14

ST. CUANS COLLEGE: St Cuans Diocesan College Land Purchase Fundraising Venture 2023. We are currently hosting a Mega Fundraising Draw. 1st Prize: €10,000 and 5 other major prizes. Tickets are €30 or two for €50. Are you a past pupil, past parent, present parent or friend of St Cuan's. Please support our Fundraising Venture to purchase 4.5 acres of land adjacent to the college. Ticket information: Facebook, all social media platforms, current parents and college office 0909678127 or <https://www.idonate.ie/raffle/stcuans>.

Pioneer pledge abstaining from Alcohol and Illegal Drugs 2023

On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, 16th June 2023 at 7pm Bishop Michael will preside at a special Mass in St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe. During this Mass, 5th and 6th Class pupils from around the diocese who have parental consent and support, will have an opportunity to take the pioneer pledge abstaining from alcohol and illegal drugs until their eighteenth. For further information visit www.creideamh.ie/pioneers

Clonfert Diocesan Pioneer (PTAA) Celebration 2023 will take place in St. Michael's Church & Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe, on evening of **Friday 16th June**, Feast of the Sacred Heart. All pioneers encouraged to participate. More info available at see www.creideamh.ie/pioneers

Clonfert Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 18 to 23 August, 2023. Now booking full details contact, Society Travel, Ballinasloe, Phone. 090 96 45350 or 087 384 4645.

Greater Ballinasloe 3 Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg will run from **Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th June**. Details @ www.creideamh.ie/lough-derg or contact John Coughlan on 086 8600987

Novena for Life The *Pray for Life* Novena is an invitation to join thousands of people across Ireland to pray for the protection of human life, from Tuesday 23rd May to the Feast of the Visitation on Wednesday 31st May. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life in Ireland. Visit www.prayforlife.ie for the daily novena prayers which will also be posted on [facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena](https://www.facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena) and @ChooseLifeIRL on Twitter. This is an initiative of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Exam Mass at Knock Shrine: For all students preparing for exams and their families. Take some time out from your studies for a quiet moment to ask for God's strength and guidance as you move through your exam period. Bring your pencil case to have it blessed. June 5th, 7.30pm, Knock Basilica.

The East Galway Family History Society in conjunction with GRETB Community Education are running free introductory courses in Cheese Making, Art and Painting & Digital Photography at the Woodford Heritage Centre over the coming months. Anyone interested in attending please email galwayroots@gmail.com or telephone 090 9749309 for more details.

Interested in Becoming a Priest in the Diocese of Clonfert

During my final years in secondary school, when I was considering what I might do in life, Sr Bernard Lynch, RSM, who has since died, gave me this prayer called One Solitary Life.

**He was born in an obscure village
The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village
Where he worked in a carpenter shop
Until he was thirty
He never wrote a book
He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never travelled more than two hundred miles
From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself
He was only thirty three
His friends ran away
One of them denied him
He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
The only property he had on earth
When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave
Through the pity of a friend
Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life. (James Allen Francis)**

It got me thinking about the life that I had been given and about what I really wanted to do with it. I certainly did not want to find it all over without me having achieved something that made myself and, if possible, the world a little better. In time, this desire led me to becoming a Priest. If you are thinking in a similar way. You might consider Priesthood in the Diocese of Clonfert as a way of life. To explore this further please make contact with Fr Aidan Costello, our Vocations Director (office@clonfertdiocese.ie) or with me and we can chat it over. (Bishop Michael Duignan)