

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)

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS . [ballymacwardparish@eircom.net](mailto:ballymacwardparish@eircom.net)

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

**SUNDAY** 30<sup>th</sup>. **MORNING MASS @ 10am.** FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT.  
Paddy Joe Laheen, Bawnogues (49th. Anniv)

**MONDAY** 31<sup>st</sup>. Mass at 9am. Marti Dwyer, Ballymacward & Jack Dwyer,  
Kinreask (Anniv)

**TUESDAY** 1<sup>st</sup>. Mass at 9am. John and Margaret Tannian, Ballinastack (Anniv) and  
the deceased members of the Tannian Family.

**WEDNESDAY** 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mass at 9am. The deceased members of the Cleary and Treacy  
Families Attyregan.

**THURSDAY** 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mass at 9am.:

**FRIDAY** 4<sup>th</sup>. Mass at 7pm. **FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.**  
Fr. Joe Pollard, Castleblakney (Anniv)

**SUNDAY** 6<sup>th</sup>. **MORNING MASS @ 10am.** FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT.  
Michael, Bridget & J.G. Queeney, Mounthazel  
(33<sup>rd</sup>., 25<sup>th</sup>. & 17<sup>th</sup>. Anniv) David Adams Mountbellew (1<sup>st</sup>. Anniv)

MASS SERVERS FOR APRIL: GRACE KELLY & LEAH HILLARY

READER FOR APRIL: ANN KELLY

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR APRIL:

ANN PEARCE, BERNIE MORRISSEY (Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>., & 13<sup>th</sup>. & Holy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>.)  
MARY JENKINS LALLY, MARY CARR (Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup>., Holy Saturday  
Night 19<sup>th</sup>., & Sunday Morning 27<sup>th</sup>.)

**BINGO: THIS SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH @ 7pm. IN BALLYMAC HALL. YIPPEE**

**SOCIAL CLUB THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>. APRIL. - BINGO.**

**PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO:**

RESULTS OF THE LOTTO DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup>. MARCH.  
WINNING No.'s 2,5,17,28. NO WINNER, & 4 MATCH 3's, KEITH DONNELLAN, ARTEMI  
SMIRMOV, JOHN MULLINS (Snr), & COLM MITCHELL. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON  
MONDAY 31<sup>st</sup>. MARCH. IN "THE LOCAL", BALLYMACWARD, FOR A JACKPOT OF  
€13,800. Thanks for your continuing support. [Play LOTTO online @](http://tinyurl.com/ygpyqc2q)  
<http://tinyurl.com/ygpyqc2q>

**ACTIVE RETIREMENT:** The Monthly meeting of Mountbellew & District  
Active Retirement will be held in the **AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,**

**MOUNTBELLEW** on Monday **7<sup>th</sup>. APRIL @ 8pm.** New members welcome.

**MEDJUGORJE:** Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 30th April to Wednesday 7th May. Director  
Fr Oliver Devine Group Leader Amy Guinan Fully incl. 845Euro Ph. 0876552453

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

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**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup>. VIGIL MASS 7pm. FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT..**

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

**SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup>. VIGIL MASS 7pm. FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT..**

Mass for the People of the Parish.

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMAC/GURTEEN. W/E 23/03/25 & 22/03/2025**

Envelopes.	€542.55	W/Envelopes	€380.10
Loose Plate	€ 64.55	Loose Plate	€ 46.35
LENTEN	€ 42.00	LENTEN	€ 85.00
EMIGRANTS	€ 39.00	EMIGRANTS	€ 70.00
17 <sup>th</sup> . MARCH	€ 53.00	17 <sup>th</sup> . MARCH	€ 84.00
OTHER COLLECT'S	€ 7.00		

**GURTEEN N.S. OPEN EVENING:** Join us on **Monday, March 31st, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.** Prospective parents and children are invited to visit the school, meet our students and teachers.vour of school life. Morning club and after – school service available. [www.gurteenns.com](http://www.gurteenns.com)<<http://www.gurteenns.com>> Tel: [0909677966](tel:0909677966)

**E.G.M. of Gurteen Community Council: Wednesday 10th April at 8:30pm in Gurteen National School** with a view to electing a committee to progress the development of community facilities in the village. All interested residents of Gurteen are welcome to attend.

**BALLINASLOE FAITH COMMUNITY AREA:**

**INVITATION TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN PRESENTING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.**

Dear Parent/Guardian(s): On **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>. April from 8 to 9-20pm** there will be a special gathering of parents/guardians from a number of Parishes in **The Emerald Ballroom, Ballinasloe (H53 X7T1)** During this gathering Mr. Darren Butler of the Irish Bishop Drugs Initiative will link the Sacrament of Confirmation with challenges older Children and young teenagers now experience.

**We encourage your participation.** Darren is a parent himself and very up to date regarding the world young people navigate.

We will also take a moment to pray for all children presenting for the Sacrament fo Confirmation this year and their families. Tea and Coffee will be served.

Darren will also visit a number of Schools in our Faith Community Area over the coming weeks to present a related programme to 5<sup>th</sup>. & 6<sup>th</sup>. Class Pupils.

Yours sincerely,

**Frs Christy McCormack, Gerard Geraghty, John Garvey, Michael Finneran, Ray Sweeney & Sean Neylon.**

## **STORM DAMAGE:**

Some old headstones in Cloonkeenkerrill cemetery have fallen following the recent storm. In some cases, there may be no known living relatives to oversee their restoration. Several headstones are unknown & we're seeking the community's help in identifying any relatives or individuals connected to them.

The following are details of the fallen headstones with unknown owners:

**Plot No. 189** – Silke (as identified on the burial ground plan)

Located near Reillys, Moyardwood, and close to John McGanns, Clough, in the older section of the cemetery.

**Plot No. 231** – Hansberry, Skehana

Situated in front of Patrick & Margaret Hynes, Shanballymore, Gurteen.

**Kelly/Callanan – Carrowtubber, Athenry**

A small headstone located in front of John, Bridget & Margaret Nolan (no address details available).

**Plot No. 90** – Flannery

Located beside John Kenny's, Cappalusk, Gurteen & in front of Kenny's/Cartys, Corskeagh. Also adjacent to Mary, Sarah & Timothy Walsh, Clooncah.

If anyone has information about these grave plots listed or knows of family connections, please contact 087 9000526 or 087 9622541.

**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.'

**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.

**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)

**Safe Talk & Suicide Awareness:** Learn 4 key steps to identify suicidal thoughts & connect individuals to suicide First Aid Resources on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> April 10a.m. -1.30p.m. in Clonfert Family Centre, Ballinasloe (H53NX59). Booking essential: (01)6060858 or email [darlene@breaking-through.org](mailto:darlene@breaking-through.org)

**Ballinasloe Community Faith Area Children's Art** (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class) and Schools (5th & 6th Class) and Youth Clubs' Quiz Competition. We are delighted to invite participation in the above competitions. Details are available [www.creidreamh.ie/ptaa-art](http://www.creidreamh.ie/ptaa-art), Schools and Clubs' Quiz Competitions: [www.creideamh.ie/ptaa-quiz](http://www.creideamh.ie/ptaa-quiz) In addition to prizes, a certificate will be awarded for the best art entry from each participating school. We have also scheduled the prize-giving ceremony for the art competition to take place during the intermission of the quiz competitions on the evening of Thursday 10th April (evening before Easter holidays).

**Anam Cara Galway**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Clayton Hotel, Briarhill, Galway. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

**'Sing for Joy!' - A Day of Music and Ministry** Are you involved, in Church Music in your Parish, We invite you to join us for 'Sing for Joy!' - A Day of Music and Ministry. Saturday 26th April 2025 at Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co. Donegal. Boat departs at 9:30am. There will be various inputs as well as time to pray. The day will conclude with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 5pm This day is open to young people aged 18-35 and is free to attend Registration is essential via <https://bit.ly/SingforJoy> .

**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)

**Meals4Health** -A social enterprise of COPE Galway – Delivers fresh delicious affordable meals.to your door. Suited to the dietary requirements of the older person. Phone 091 354000 or visit [www.meals4health.ie](http://www.meals4health.ie) Special and modified dietary requirements catered for. Nationwide delivery available.

**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.