

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 7th. MORNING MASS @ 10am. TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

John and Bridget Rock, Garafine (Anniv)

TUESDAY 9th. Mass at 9am. Special Intention.

SUNDAY 14th. MORNING MASS @ 10am. TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Gabriel Lally, Hampstead (9th. Anniv)

Michael Kennedy, Bawnogues (18th. Anniv)

Eugene Murphy, Whitepark (10th. Anniv)

SERVERS FOR SEPTEMBER:

EMMA O'DEA & FIONN NUTLEY

READER FOR SEPTEMBER:

AINE HILLARY/KELLY

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER:

NORA BARRETT & JOAN TANNIAN (7th. & 14th.)

CATRIONA HYNES & SEAN HOGAN (21st. & 28th.)

BALLYMACWARD HALL:

(a) Thank you for the wonderful support for our Anniv. Bingo last Sunday evening, a great turnout, and a very enjoyable evening had by all.

(b) We are now into our Fourth Month of our EuroMillions Syndicate, as yet we haven't become Millionaires. The following are the winnings so far.

JUNE: € 4.00

JULY: €26.00

AUGUST: €15.00 Don't worry, we'll keep ye posted regularly..

SOCIAL CLUB: THURSDAY 11th. SEPTEMBER, STRETCHING EXERCISES:

A great turnout for the first day back last Thursday, plenty of room for lots more new members, it's a great social get together, why not come along.

IRISH DANCING CLASSES: Starting this **WEDNESDAY 10th. SEPTEMBER**

in **Ballymac Hall @ 6pm.** Beginners and Improvers are welcome. For more information please Text CAROL @ (087) 6266870. Get along and get practicing, ye'll have an opportunity to show off on Sunday 19th. Oct., at a special Parish event on that evening, more nearer the time.

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.

PILATES MORNING OR EVENING

Looking to improve your strength, flexibility and posture? Join a beginner friendly 5 week pilates course in Ballymacward Community Centre commencing:

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER @8PM or FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER @10AM

Block of 5 classes €50. To book or find out more contact Síle 0879215735

'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.

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

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SATURDAY 6th. VIGIL MASS 7pm. TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Pearl Colgan (Nee Griffin) recently Deceased.

Owen and James Cunniffe, Gurteen (Anniv)

Sean Hastings, Faha (Anniv)

FRIDAY 12th. Mass at 8pm. Special Intention.

SATURDAY 13th. VIGIL MASS 7pm. TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Nora and John Dempsey, Colemanstown (9th. and 49th. Anniv)

PADRAIG PEARSES GAA CLUB LOTTO: RESULTS OF THE LOTTO
DRAW WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 1st. SEPTEMBER. WINNING
No.'s 3,6,13,28. NO WINNER, & 2 MATCH 3. MARTIN CAMPBELL, & PAT
BELLEW. NEXT WEEK'S DRAW ON MONDAY 8th. SEPTEMBER. IN
"BURKE'S BAR", COLEMANSTOWN, FOR A JACKPOT OF €3,600. Thanks for
your continuing support.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BALLYMAC/GURTEEN. WEEK ENDING 30/31 – 08/25

Envelopes.	€384.05	W/Envelopes	€252.00
Loose Plate	€110.00	Loose Plate	€ 32.00
PRIESTS SUMMER	€150.00	PRIESTS SUM/AUT	€150.00
CANDLES	€ 75.59		
LENTEN	€ 20.00		

New Opportunity - 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 as part of team on the environmental sites. Flexible working hours. For further details please contact Sean O' Neill on 090 9679085 /0871209739 or email mountbellewdd@gmail.com

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.

"Breast Cancer Awareness Month takes place October 1st-31st.

For further information, please log onto www.breastcancerireland.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

Mountbellew / Moylough / Menlough / Skehana - LOUGH DERG:

To mark the Jubilee Year, a Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg (one-day) will take place on ***Tuesday 9th September***. Departing from Pastoral Centre, Mountbellew, H53 X008. For further information and to book your place, please contact the Parish Office 090 9623807 or mbmparish@gmail.com, a deposit of €30 will be required, with an additional cost for admission to Lough Derg.

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Emmanuel House Clonfert seeks admin/reception staff for a position in their office and shop. Commitment to Christian values in the promotion of faith is essential. Apply with CV in person, by post or by email to contact@emmanuelhouse.ie.

Encounter School of Ministry is a Catholic training program designed to teach, equip and activate you in the full supernatural lifestyle of Jesus. Come and See for yourself from 6.15pm - 9.30pm on Sept 8, 15 and 22nd in Emmanuel House, Clonfert. Maybe this is what you didn't know you were looking for!" More info at www.encounterschool.org or clonfert@encounterschool.org.

Introducing Pope Leo XIV: His life, his ministry and how he will respond to the challenges and opportunities facing the Church. Speaker Michael Kelly author of *Pope Leo XIV at the Service of Humanity*. Tuesday September 23 at 8pm, Abbey Hotel, Roscommon. Free admission, to book a seat email info@ionainstitute.ie or phone 01 6619 204.

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.clonferthdiocese.ie

Gaza: “Words are not enough!” – Irish Bishops call for solidarity at parish level

“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.

