

Woodford/Looscaun Parish Newsletter

Portumna Faith Community Area

Fr. Kieran O'Rourke, T. 090 9749100, M. 087 2997956, * E. woodfordlooscaun@clonfertdiocese.ie
Newsletter available on www.clonfertdiocese.ie, Eircode: H62 AK18
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Woodf4dLooscaun, Woodford/Shragh Defibrillator 999 or 112

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 25th 2024

St John the Baptist Church, Woodford.

Mass Tue. 7pm Wed. 9.30am Thur. 9.30am Fri. 8pm Sat. 10am Sun. 11am
Sunday August 25th 11am Pat & Mary Hackett, Rossmore,
Vincent & Lucy O'Farrell, their daughters Elsie Swan & Anne Regan
& deceased members of the O'Farrell Family, Woodford.
Mary & Tommy Hanley, Clonmoylan & their sons Brod & Sean
Friday August 30th 8pm Andrew & Mary Guilfoyle, their son Tom Joe,
daughters Mary & Ann, Nancy O'Sullivan
& Nancy's daughter Mary Therese.
Sunday September 1st 11am Andrew Moran, Carlow & formerly Woodford (First Anniv)

Altar Society: Team 6 Bernadette Larkin & Geraldine Lyons (Month of August)

St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun

Mass Sat. 7pm
Saturday August 24th 7pm Bridget (Ciss) Page,(First Anv.) Cloncoe House.
Willie Forde, Derryooper (First Anniversary)
Mattie & Lily Forde, Derryooper (3rd Anniv)
John & Annie Page, Bawnmore
Saturday August 31st 7pm Denis & Patrick Tuohy
& deceased family members Tooreney, Coose

Altar Society Team 5 Mary Goonan Bernadette Stewart.

RIP: Anne Spelman (nee Fogarty) Newtowndaly & formerly Woodford.

Church Offertory: August 18th €282.69 Thank you for your continued support of the Parish. Thanks to all who support the various Collections including the Priests Summer Collection.

Mass will be available on 105.0FM locally, on the Parish Facebook Page & Church Webcam

Link for St. John the Baptist Church Woodford www.churchmedia.tv/stjohnbaptist

Link for St. Brendans Church, Looscaun www.churchmedia.tv/stbrendans

Email Address for the Parish Newsletter. Please direct Notices you wish to publish in the Parish Newsletter to this new email address woodfordlooscaunnewsletter@gmail.com

Dates to Note Cemetery Masses Friday September 6th Woodford Mass will be at 7pm (Weather Permitting. Otherwise Mass will be in Woodford Church)

If you are interested in Reading at Mass, please contact Fr. Kieran on 090-9749100

Davitts 50/50 draw: Congratulations to Aoife Casey, Kylebrack winner of €580 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 19th August. Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales . Thanks for your continued support

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Upcoming community workshops running for a total of 8 weeks with the Regari Recovery College in Ballinasloe Town (Clonfert Family Centre).

Starting on Wed., 2nd Oct 24 until Wed., 27th Nov 24, (1:30- 4:30pm). For more information please contact: Amanda Hunt on (087) 622 1335 or email regarirecoverycollege@gmail.com. Registration fee of €5, then all Modules are free to attend.

Experience Lourdes at home! The relics of Saint Bernadette will visit Galway Cathedral from 5th-6th September and Loughrea Cathedral from 7th-8th September. Visit www.clonfertdiocese.ie for the full schedule of events. In preparation for the relics there will be a 9-day novena to St. Bernadette, which will begin on the 27th of August. The purpose of this novena is to prepare our hearts and minds for the visit of the relics, seeking St. Bernadette's intercession for our personal intentions and the spiritual renewal of our Diocese. During this period, I request that the novena prayer be recited at each Mass. There will also be petition slips available which will be taken to the Cathedral for onward forwarding to Lourdes.

A 2 day free event on Exploring County Galway's Ulster Heritage is taking place on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th September in Woodford. Please email galwayroots@gmail.com or ring 090 9749309 for more information.

Harvesting Gratitude with Carol Barry 13th – 15th September at the Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght D24 KA40 For Bookings please call the Dominican Retreat Centre on 01 404 8189 or email at dominicanretreats@gmail.com

Catholic Marriage Encounter in Ireland is a weekend experience for married couples who want something more in their marriage – more fun, spontaneity, excitement, communication, understanding, romance, intimacy, passion and joy. Marriage Enrichment weekend is Friday 8 – 10 November 2024 in Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co Kildare. Online Booking Only: www.marriageencounter.ie

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 accordballinasloe@gmail.com

Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme This scheme is open to households impacted by restrictions on domestic turf cutting on Barroughter and Clonmoylan bogs. Applicants can qualify for single payments of € 24,100. Please call Bord na Móna on 087 2490600 for more details and an application form.

Information and Support for Birth Mothers - whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at www.birthinfo.ie or by calling the relevant section of TUSLA at 0818 445 500

Gamblers Anonymous – Want to stop Gambling Helpline 086 349 4450 Weekly Meetings Tuesday GELS Room, Main Street Ballinasloe H53 RC95 @ 8pm.

Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 18th of August 2024 - 12,13,15,28.No Jackpot Winner. Match 3 winners: Carmel & Kera, Sinead Mitchell.This week's lotto jackpot is €5 500. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

Burren Weekend Retreat, Co Clare 6-8 September Would you like to come on a guided journey through the Burren? Experience the silence and beauty of this unique landscape through walking mindfully on ancient pathways or limestone pavements. Get to know some of the rare flora and appreciate our rich faith heritage in one of the many ancient sacred sites. Further information: Mary 087 970 1130. Booking: Des 085 1614951.

VAKS is an opportunity for young people in TY, 5th and 6th year to come to Knock Shrine to volunteer for a weekend in either July or August. This is a great way to meet new friends, serve others, express your faith and have fun! If you would like any more information please do not hesitate to reach out to Mairead Jennings at 094 937 5321 or your local parish priest

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland will be holding a social Club in The Loughrea

Family & Community Resource Centre Bridge Street, Loughrea every Wednesday 2pm

to 4pm. Contact Teresa on 087 1888177.

The Members of New Pastoral Parish Council 2024-28; Chairperson; Maura Cooney. Secretary; Bernadette Gorman James Egan, Laura Leonard, Teresa Ryan, Liam Smith, Declan Stewart, Maura Stewart, Mary Walsh, Fr. Kieran O'Rourke

The Members of New Parish Finance Committee 2024-28 Chairperson Patricia Eames, Secretary Bernadette Gorman, Mona Madden, Fr. Kieran O'Rourke

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<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/06/24/bishops-statement-on-end-of-life-care-freedom-to-live-fully-until-death-comes/>

Church Envelopes for 2024 are now available in the Churches, Woodford Envelopes in Woodford and Looscaun Envelopes in Looscaun. Thanks to all who have supported the various Church Collections this past year. It is very much appreciated.

Providing compassionate care at the end of life To address the sensitive issue of compassionate care at the end of life, and in response to the need to inform the faithful of Catholic teaching on this important life issue that affects so many families, the Bishops of Ireland have published the pastoral letter: Freedom to Live Fully, Until Death Comes. You are invited to read this letter and view the accompanying video Through the Valley, which offers personal testimonies by carers and people with terminal illness. The key message of both letter and video asserts that every person possesses inherent, infinite dignity that remains intact regardless of their circumstances. In this context, bishops strongly oppose the Oireachtas Committee's proposal to Government to legislate for assisted suicide, and call on support for healthcare workers who uphold the sanctity of life. To read Freedom to Live Fully, Until Death Comes and to watch Through the Valley, visit the following link: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/06/24/bishops-statement-on-end-of-life-care-freedom-to-live-fully-until-death-comes>

St Vincent de Paul, Portumna recruitment Do you want to help people in your Community? You know the issues in your Community and by offering a little help at the right time can give people hope for the future. Do you have approx 1-2 hours available weekly? If so, please apply by sending a text or WhatsApp with your name, address & contact details to SVP phone no: 087 3650922 and we will advise you of recruitment process For further information on the work of SVP, visit www.svp.ie

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service is available and affordable. CONTACT 090 9643573 for appointment or E-mail ballinasloeaccord@eircom.net

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. If you have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church. If you have the enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team in supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage Accord wants to hear from you! Successful applicants will receive professional training and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes locally. Contact Aisling on 01 505 3112 or by email to marriagepreparation@accord.ie www.accord.ie

SHRAGH 6KM – Run/Jog/Walk on Sunday 14th April. Starting from Shragh Community Centre at 11am. Registration 10 – 10.45am. Entry: Adults €10/Children €5. Family Discounts. Refreshments afterwards. All proceeds for upkeep and maintenance of Shragh Community Centre. For more info phone/text Mary @ 087 6152668 All are welcome

DATES OF PASSOVER AND EASTER At the Council of Nicaea in 325, the date for Easter was fixed as the Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox. Sunday, 31 March 2024 is the feast of Easter. Eastern Christians calculate the date of Easter according to the Julian Calendar, the Calendar in general use before the Gregorian reform of 1582. One of the reforms was the removal of ten days from the Calendar and this discrepancy, now thirteen days, between the Julian and Gregorian Calendars results often in a difference in the date for Easter in East and West as they follow the two Calendars. This happens in 2024 when the date of Easter for Eastern Christians is Sunday, 5 May. The feast of Passover is a seven day feast, beginning at sundown on the evening of 22 April 2024 (14 Nisan 5784).

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Eileen Whyte, Woodford, winner of €600 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 19th February. Tickets available available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales ". Thanks for your continued support **St Vincent de Paul, Portumna recruitment**

Do you want to help people in your Community? You know the issues in your Community and by offering a little help at the right time can give people hope for the future.

Do you have approx 1-2 hours available weekly? If so, please apply by sending a text or WhatsApp with your name, address and contact details to SVP phone no: 087 3650922 and we will advise you of recruitment process

For further information on the work of SVP look online at SVP.ie

Join the Galway 40 days for Life Lenten campaign to witness peacefully and to pray publicly, on Saturdays during Lent, outside UHG for a return to the Gospel of Life. 40 days for Life is the world's largest grassroots moment to end Abortion. To join : contact 083 423 1791.

Loving Father! You are the source of all that is: our beginning and our end .Pour out your Spirit upon us. Form in us the mind of Christ.Give us a greater appreciation for the precious gift of life. Renew in us a commitment to building a community where every human life is welcomed and valued from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. Draw near to those who are sick or dying. Help those who love them and care for them. Bless us now and at the hour of our death. Amen Our Lady of Clonfert! Pray for us!

New Church Webcams. New Church webcams are now operational in both St. John the Baptist Church, Woodford and St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun. This is thanks to a most generous donation to the Parish to install webcams. This and your continued financial support of the Parish has enabled them to be installed and funded for the coming year. Thank you for that generous support

vening social. To view the full programme and to register visit www.evangelium.ie or search 'Evangelium Ireland'

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Christina Gantley, Killeen, winner of €575 in last weeks draw. Next draw is our Christmas draw & takes place on Monday 5th February. available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales ". Thanks for your continued support

How to view the Church Webcam on your Laptop, Desktop, Tablet or Mobile Phone. Type in www.churchmedia.tv. Once on the site click in 'Search for your Church' and type in Looscaun or Woodford. Then click on the picture of the Church either Looscaun or Woodford to take you to the webcam for either St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun or St. John the Baptist Church, Woodford. You can also link directly to either webcam by typing in www.churchmedia.tv/stbrendans for the Looscaun Church webcam or www.churchmedia.tv/stjohnbaptist for the Woodford Church Webcam. You can still watch Mass and Scheduled Church Services via the Woodford/Looscaun Parish Facebook Page which is now linked to the Church webcam. www.facebook.com/woodf4dlooscaun is the link to the Woodford/Looscaun Parish Facebook Page.

Tús community work placement scheme:

Galway Rural Development have a number of vacancies in the Woodford Area and also the surrounding areas of Abbey, Duniry and Tynagh

If you are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (Means tested payment) or a Disability Allowance (DA) payment for a minimum of 12 months, interested in developing new skills and re-joining the work force for 19.5 hours per week, we can help.

In Woodford Development Group we have a Tús vacancy for a Maintenance/Caretaker Person.

Please contact the Tús Supervisor ~ Karen Connolly on 087 6903463 for more information.

Calling Pioneers and Friends to the 25th Pioneer National Ball. An evening of celebration and fun on Saturday April 6th 2024. Mass at 6pm in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar, followed by special guest speaker, dinner, music and dancing at the Annebrook House Hotel, Mullingar. Extra activities on Friday night and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. For details/ tickets contact Dermot Fagan 085-7201646 or Daisy Carey 087-6544626"

Celebration of the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2024

We remember in our prayers those who are beginning to prepare for the celebration of the important Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and this year. We also remember their families, sponsors, teachers and our entire parish community who will journey with them.

New Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees At the moment parishes throughout the Diocese of Clonfert are reconstituting their Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees. These bodies are living examples of the synodal working together of the priest and people for the good of the whole parish. Training for members will take place in the New Year along with a formal commissioning before Easter. For more information visit www.clonfertdiocese.ie

Meals4Health - Galway – Delivers Fresh Delicious Affordable Meals to your door. Suited to the dietary requirements of the older person. Phone 091354000 for more information or visit www.meals4health.ie Special and modified dietary requirements catered for also. Nationwide delivery available.