

# Woodford/Looscaun Parish Newsletter

## Portumna Faith Community Area

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Newsletter available on [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://www.clonfertdiocese.ie), Eircode: H62 AK18

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Woodf4dLooscaun](http://www.facebook.com/Woodf4dLooscaun), Woodford/Shragh Defibrillator 999 or 112

### 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 10th 2024

#### St John the Baptist Church, Woodford.

Mass Mon.9.30am Tue. 7pm Wed. 9.30am Thur.9.30am Fri. 10am Sat. 10am Sun. 11am

Sunday November 10th 11am Margaret McCole, Shannonhill (Anv)

Pat Joe & Mary Ann Pierce, Woodford.

Tuesday November 12th 7pm Edward & Winnifred Cleary, Derrygoolin

Friday November 15th 10am Mary & Joe Eames, Woodford.

Sunday November 17th 11am Kathleen Keary & Betty Sweeney(nee Keary) Woodford.

Altar Society: Mary Gorman Wiltrude Duell (Month of November)

#### St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun

Mass Fri. 8pm Sat 7pm

Saturday November 9th 7pm Timmy & Mary Bugler, Looscaun & their son PJ  
& Deceased family members

Friday November 15th 8pm Martin & Anna Flanagan, Shragh & Mary & John Davey

Saturday November 16th 7pm Paddy Forde, Derryoover (35th Anniversary)

Altar Society Team 4 Betty Whelan Maura Tully

Church Offertory: Nov. 3rd €545.27 Thank you for your continued support of the Parish.

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](http://www.churchmedia.tv/stjohnbaptist)

Link for St. Brendans Church, Looscaun [www.churchmedia.tv/stbrendans](http://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](mailto:woodfordlooscaunnewsletter@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:regarirecoverycollege@gmail.com). Registration fee of €5, then all Modules are free to attend.

**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](mailto:accordballinasloe@gmail.com)

Today, we remember our dead who have gone home to God. We pray that God will draw them ever more closer into his eternal embrace.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,

through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

**The National Vocations Office** will hold open days for adult men who wish to explore a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood -

Thurles - Pallottine College - November 10th

Further details and information on the registration process is available on [vocations.ie/exploring](http://vocations.ie/exploring)

**'Seeking encounter with God in and through St Luke's Gospel':** Members of CREIDEAMH network invite you to join them in Clonfert Family Centre, Ballinasloe, H53 NX59, for one hour, 6.30 – 7.30 pm, for 6 weeks beginning Sun. 3rd Nov. For more details see @ [www.creideamh.ie/luke](http://www.creideamh.ie/luke) Newcomers to scripture exploration especially welcome.

**Woodford Youth Club Sale of Work** takes place this year on Sunday December 1st with Santa arriving at 3pm. All monies raised go towards the upkeep of the hall.

**Woodford-Looscaun Christmas Lights AGM** in Walsh's Restaurant Woodford next Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 8:30pm. All welcome.

**Woodford Parish Development : "Cuimhneamh na Ghráige and Luascán"**( Woodford and Looscaun Memories) will host a series of meetings over the coming weeks to gather and document the old place names, field names, mass paths, wells, forges and buildings of importance in Woodford/Looscaun parish history down the years. We also plan on recording some oral history to promote and nurture the unique and rich history of our Parish. We are inviting YOU to get involved in this initiative. Further details will follow next week. Contact Angela 086 8513031 or Geert 086 2118315 for further information.

**Tommie Larkins Lotto** results for the 03rd of November 2024 - 9,18,20,23.

No Jackpot Winner, No Match 3 Winners. Donation €150 to Woodford/ Shragh Defib.

This week's lotto jackpot is € 6 600. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

**Couch to 5K Program A 6-week running program suitable for all fitness levels**--even if you've never run before! Led by Sarah Smith Killeen, this friendly, supportive plan will help you gradually build up to running 5K, with no pressure and no experience required. Starting on Saturday 09th November 2024 at 9:40am for approximately 30-45 minutes on our walking track. It will begin with a mix of walking and running intervals, designed to help your body adapt safely and at your own pace. Over six weeks, you'll find yourself progressing from walk-run intervals to completing a full 5K non-stop. This is a free event for all our social members, if not a social member it's not too late and for more information and details on registration please contact Edel Daniels on 0879434905. Spaces are limited so don't delay in getting signed up.

**Davitts 50/50 draw.**: Congratulations to Jamie & Caitlin Murphy, Ballinakill ,winners of €580 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 11th November. Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at [www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts\\_Camogie\\_Club/TicketSales](http://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales) ". Thanks for your continued support

**Weekly '45 Card Game returns** in Shragh Hall, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct at 8pm.

**XMAS ARTS & CRAFTS** fair in Killimor on Sunday December 1st. If you would like to display/sell your produce/product please contact 087 9528054. Places limited

**Information and Support for Birth Mothers** - whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at [www.birthinfo.ie](http://www.birthinfo.ie) or by calling the relevant section of TUSLA at +353

818 445 500

Galway Rural Development has a number of part-time administration and

other vacancies now available. For more information, contact GRD's Tús team at 087 9335477 or email [tusadmin@grd.ie](mailto:tusadmin@grd.ie).

**East Galway Speakers** - Would you like to be confident enough to be a minister of the word or deliver a eulogy? East Galway Speakers' next meeting, Monday 28th October, Comworks, Station Road, Loughrea, H62 VN56, at 8 pm sharp.

Galway Rural Development has a number of part-time administration and other vacancies now available. Supported by the Tús programme: if you are a year or more on a Jobseeker's payment and would like to contribute to a charity or community group in your locality, then this is your chance. Placements are for 12-18 months with pay and PRSI contributions recorded. Completion of the Tús programme provides future employers with evidence of work experience, training, a reference, and a CV. For more information, contact GRD's Tús team at 087 9335477 or email [tusadmin@grd.ie](mailto:tusadmin@grd.ie).

**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](http://www.marriageencounter.ie)**

**Benefit Concert & Draw for Olive Page.** Loughrea Hotel & Spa Wednesday 30th October 7:30 PM. Sean Keane, Mike Denver, Evoke and many more. **Concert Tickets available from:** Kearys, Woodford, Loughrea Hotel and Spa (091 880088) Portumna Post Office **Raffle tickets on sale at:** Kearys and Daybreak, Woodford Post Office, Gurteeny O' Donnell's and Skellys, Kylebrack Holohans, Abbey, Portumna Post Office See Cáirde Olive on Facebook & Instagram for details

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**Silent Retreat: Theme: "If you knew the gift of God..."** Preached by: Fr. Kilian Byrne, Foyer of Charity in St. Mary's Accommodation, Knock, Co. Mayo October 14 th to 20th 2024 Cost: €540 full board Contact: Helen : 086 1678027/

[hellywilliams@gmail.com](mailto:hellywilliams@gmail.com) [www.foyerofcharity.ie](http://www.foyerofcharity.ie) A privileged time to come away from noise and distractions, and listen to the Spirit of God, - Who is Love. Silence, prayer, teachings & liturgy of the Church.

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### **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.*

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A special Rosary to Our Lady, will be held in the Church of the Assumption, Abbey on Sunday 25th at 8 pm. It will be

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

dedicated to peace, and to victims of violence. All are welcome to attend, and your support will be greatly appreciated.

**Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme** This scheme is open to households impacted by restrictions on domestic turf cutting on Cloonmoylean bog. Bord Na Mona are holding a drop in Clinic in The Loughrea Hotel and Spa on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September from 12pm until 8pm to provide more information on this and other schemes. For further information or to arrange an alternative appointment please call us on 087 249 0600

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Brendan Torpey, Derrygoolin, winner of €590 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 2nd September. Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at [www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts Camogie \\_Club/TicketSales](http://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales) ". Thanks for your continued support

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/>

**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

**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](http://www.svp.ie)

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**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](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie) [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

**SHRAGH 6KM – Run/Jog/Walk on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.churchmedia.tv/stbrendans) for the Looscaun Church webcam or [www.churchmedia.tv/stjohnbaptist](http://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](http://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 25 th Pioneer National Ball. An evening of celebration and fun on Saturday April 6 th 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](http://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](http://www.meals4health.ie) Special and modified dietary requirements catered for also. Nationwide delivery available.