

Woodford/Looscaun Parish Newsletter

Portumna Faith Community Area

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

4th Sunday of Easter April 25th 2026

St John the Baptist Church, Woodford.

Mon. 9.15am Tue. 9.15am Fri. 10am Sat. 7pm
 Saturday Apr. 25th 7pm Pat Joe Pierce, Woodford (30th Anniv)
 Maureen Page, Woodford (12th Anniv)
 Saturday May 2nd 7pm Oliver Conroy, Rockhill, Woodford (First Anniversary)

Altar Society: (Apr) Brid McNamara & Kitty Moroney

St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun

Wed. 9.15am Thur. 9.15am Sun. 11am
 Sunday April 26th 11am Richard Lyons, London & formerly Quansboro
 & his brother Brendan & DFM.
 Sunday May 3rd 11am Michael Quinn, Shragh
 PJ & Sean Ryan, Gurteeny
 Thomas & Margaret Martin, Gurteeny

Altar Society Team 4 Mary Jo Hanley.

RIP: Sean Garvey, Ontario Canada & formerly Coose. Naoise Larkin, Abbey, brother of Lily Hayes, Powers Cross.

Offertory: Sat/Sun. 18th/19th April €638.25 Thanks for your continued financial support of Woodford/Looscaun Parish. Thanks to all who use the Parish Envelope Box in making financial contributions to the Parish. New Boxes for 2026 have been issued to those who use the Parish Envelope System and the new boxes are available in Woodford Church for the Woodford area and in Looscaun Church for the Looscaun area. If you do not have a Box issued in your name and wish to receive a box, please ask Fr. Kieran and an Envelope Box can be issued for you. You can also financially contribute to Woodford/Looscaun Parish by online banking by following the link on the Clonfert & Galway Diocesan website

<https://www.idonate.ie/donate/cause/clonfertdiocese> or by paying directly to the Woodford/Looscaun Parish Account in the Bank of Ireland, Portumna Sort Code: 903947 Account Number 26884326, by using online banking IBAN: IE23BOFI 903947 26884326. Thanks to all who contribute to the Parish by paying directly to the Parish Bank Account or by using online banking. Every little helps and thanks to all who by their generosity have supported Woodford/Looscaun Parish over the years and continue to do so. Mile Buiochas

Mass will be available on 105.0FM locally, on 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

Diocese of Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026, led by Bishop Michael Duignan departing from Shannon 29 June for 5 nights. Further enquiries contact Society Travel, Ballinasloe 090 9645350 or Joe Walsh Tours 01 2410 800.

Pro Life Rally this Bank Holiday Monday 4th May in Dublin at 2pm from Newman University Church St Stephens Green to Leinster House. Free Bus from Knocknacarra, Galway Cathedral, Renmore, Oranmore and Ballinasloe Teresa 0877514387 Or Imelda 0868847745

Thanks to Woodford Heritage Centre for printing the newsletter

First Friday Calls will be on Friday May 3rd beginning at 11am If you would like a call or know someone who would appreciate a call, please contact Fr Kieran on 090-9749100.

Clonfert May Devotions beginning Friday May 1st. at 7.30pm More details on the Clonfert & Galway Diocesan website and on the Eyrecourt Clonfert & Meelick Facebook Page.

Interested in becoming a priest in the Dioceses of Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora? –come and find out more about Diocesan Priesthood at our Vocations Afternoon on Sunday May 10th, 2026. For more information contact Fr Ian on 087 2048497 or email at: priesthood@clonfertgalway.ie “

Trócaire – Thank you for your support of those in need through this worthy charity. Ways to donate include using the Trócaire box or envelope or online at trocaire.ie
A Youth 2000 day retreat takes place on April 25 at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo. Youth 2000 provides an opportunity for young people (16-35) to develop their relationship with God, learn more about the Catholic faith &; meet other young people through a structured retreat programme. Talks, testimonies & games. Donation only. Check out Youth2000.ie to register or contact connaught@youth2000.ie for more information

Priests Easter Collection Thank you for your contributions to this special collection that supports the payment of your Priest. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Calling Young Adults to Join the 2026 Pilgrimage to Lourdes Between the ages of 18 and 25? Interested in joining the Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026 as a member of pilgrimage staff? Become part of the vibrant team assisting pilgrims who otherwise would not be able to travel. For those who have taken part in the past it has been an unforgettable and enriching

experience. This year's pilgrimage takes place from 29 June to 4 July. For further information, dmccarthy@clonfertgalway.ie, or contact your local parish priest.

Join this year's Young Adult Camino Pilgrimage (ages 18–35), 11th–20th July 2026. Walk the final 100km from Sarria to Santiago with Bishop Michael Duignan. Step out in faith and experience the grace of the Camino. Includes flights, accommodation and visit to Finisterre Contact youthpilgrimage@clonfertgalway.ie

Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 20th of April 2026 - 9,14,23,26.

No Jackpot winner. Match 3 winners: Eamon O Grady.

This week's lotto jackpot is € 2300. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs

Tea dance in aid of Galway hospice in Treacy's Killinor on Sat 25th April. Music by Kieran Donohoe. Admi €10. Refreshments served. Doors 9pm, music starts at 10pm.

Larry's Vintage Memorial Run - 10th Anniversary Memorial Run Sunday 3rd May. Motorbikes, Cars, Tractors and Trucks all welcome. Registration starts at 12 noon at Pallas Karting. €25 per vehicle. Run starts at 2 p.m. Join us afterwards at the Cross Bar Duniry for Refreshments, Music and Raffle. All proceeds go towards 'Together for Alfie & Jacob

DAB Radio: Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) will be available in the Woodford/Looscaun area from the end of April. Test Transmissions are taking place at the moment on Block 10D (215.072 MHz) from Keeper Hill Co. Tipperary and from a network of 8 other transmitters serving the Midlands, South and West of Ireland Bauer Media Ireland, owners of Today FM, Newstalk, Spin and ONIC who own FM104, Q102, Cork 96FM, C103 & Limerick's Live 95 are running this service as a trial for DAB in Ireland. Up to 20 stations will be available including **Radio Maria & Spirit Radio** and stations from Bauer and Onic. Cars from 2021 & older imported cars from the UK may have a DAB Radio fitted. You may also have a DAB radio in your home. So you can press the DAB button on your radio and enjoy listening to the extra radio stations on DAB. Details on www.failedab.ie

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

Bowel cancer is one of the most common cancers, but when detected early, it is highly treatable.

You can reduce your risk of bowel cancer by eating healthy (high fibre, limit processed meat/red meat), limiting alcohol, maintain a healthy weight, being physically active, and getting help to quit smoking. Bowel screening is available to everyone aged 57-71 years. See www.hse.ie/bowelscreen

It is important to be aware of changes in your body and seek medical advice if you notice:

A change in bowel habit that lasts more than 6 weeks (diarrhoea, constipation, or a change in stool consistency), feeling like you have to pass stool even when you know your bowel is empty, unexplained bleeding from your back passage. Unexplained pain or lump in tummy or back passage, unexplained tiredness more than is normal for you or unexplained weight loss.

These symptoms don't always mean cancer, but they should never be ignored.

See www.hse.ie/preventcancer

unique, free heritage training course is being made available by Galway Rural Development through the LEADER programme. The course will be of interest to community heritage groups, tidy towns groups, men's sheds, women's sheds, CE Schemes, and all those interested in their local heritage. Any individual or group are warmly welcome to attend. The five week-course starts on Wednesday, March 25th, at 10am in Kiltullagh Community Hub [H65 KC89]. To book your place, email zenahoctor@gmail.com by March 20th.

The Seumas O'Kelly Players present 3 Comedy One Act Plays, Thursday 9th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of April, in the Temperance Hall, Loughrea at 8 pm. Tickets are €15 on the door,

or in advance from Martin Fahy Menswear, Loughrea or online at <https://gr8events.ie/three-comedy-one-act-plays>

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme launched in March 2024 following the Government agreed actions arising from the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes and certain related matters. The Payment scheme provides financial payments, and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions in Ireland. Eligibility criteria can be found online, and applications can be made via an online portal (website below) or by post
Visit: www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/campaigns/mother-and-baby-institutions-payment-scheme/ Contact Helpline: 01 522 9922 (call to request application pack) All applications are handled with care, dignity and full confidentiality.

Have you ever thought about fostering? Change a child's life by becoming a Tusla Foster Carer. Talk to Tusla Fostering today by freephone 1800 226 771 or visit www.fostering.ie to learn more.

Make the Link

Galway Rural Development and the Department of Social Protection are joining forces to put together a series of FREE information events called 'Make the Link'. These events will take place across East Galway in March as part of National Work and Skills Week . They will bring together employers, education and training providers, Family Resource Centres and local support services to share information, and support individuals to move towards education, training and employment. There will also be information on the financial support and benefits available to you. The first event will be held in Loughrea on Friday, the 6th March from 10am-1pm, in the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa. For more details please contact Freeda in GRD on 087 3674568

Ballinasloe & District Pioneer Youth Club accepting new members. Open to young people 10 to 16 years. See www.creideamh.ie/youth-club for details.

The 5 First Saturdays Devotions: in St Michael's Church, Ballinasloe beginning on Saturday Feb 7 th @ 9.15a.m. All most welcome.

Celebration of the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion, Confirmation 2026 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 Confirmation this year. We also remember their families, sponsors, teachers and our entire parish community who will journey with them.

St Brendans Education Centre, Abbey St., Loughrea, Co. Galway 091 841387: Hairdressing Taster Programme presently from 3-6pm Tuesdays. Contacts: john.melville@gretb.ie or maureen.shea@gretb.ie

Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 2nd of February 2026 -5, 13, 17, 28.No Jackpot winner.Match 3 winner:Margaret Callanan, Declan Flanagan,Liam Moroney, Sarah Broderick, Des Larkin. This week's lotto jackpot is € 6000. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

'Life in the Spirit' seminars: continue every Tuesday until the 3 rd March at 7p.m at Clonfert Family Centre, Ballinasloe, H53 NX59. Guest speaker every week. All are welcome to come and see. Details: Theresa on 086 3241269

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Helen Van Den Hoff Woodford, winner of €628 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 9th Feb. Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales

Tea dance in aid of Galway hospice in Treacy's Killinor on Saturday 7th February. Music by Thomas McGuire and Fiona Ennis. Admission €10. Refreshments served. Doors open 9pm music starts at 10pm.

Ability West – CE Scheme Vacancy - Ability West is recruiting an Instructor's Aid for their Community Employment (CE) Scheme, based in the Portumna Hub. To be eligible, applicants must be in receipt of a social welfare payment for at least 12 months. (Other criteria may apply in certain circumstances.) For more information, please contact the CE Supervisor, Breda Kerans, at 087 675 1415.

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Diarmuid Fahy, Woodford, winner of €655 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 26th January. Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales
"Have you ever thought about fostering? Change a child's life by becoming a Tusla Foster Carer. Talk to Tusla Fostering today by freephone 1800 226 771 or visit www.fostering.ie to learn more."

Small Steps, Big Impact: Physical Activity for Cancer Risk ReductionThe Irish Cancer Prevention Network are hosting a free World Cancer Day webinar on: Date: Wednesday the 4th of February 2026 Time: 12pm to 1.15pm. For more information see: www.hse.ie/cancerprevention

If you are 65 or older and would like to apply for a personal alarm, under the Seniors Alert Scheme Grant, for your safety and peace of mind, please call Galway Contact at 091 867892 or email galwaycontact@gmail.com

Men's Development Network – Male Advice Line Domestic abuse does not discriminate. If you are a man facing abuse, you're not alone. We are here to help. Call our Male Advice Line: 1800816 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 are here to guide you every step of the way.

Tea Dance in aid of Galway Hospice in Treacy's Killimor on Saturday 17th January. Music by Tommy Flaherty and Francis Fahy. Admission €10. Refreshments served. Doors open 9pm music starts at 10pm.

This Newsletter is kindly printed by Woodford Heritage Centre

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to John ,winner of €970 in last weeks draw. Next draw is the Christmas bumper draw and takes place on Monday 12th January. Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales

Thank you for your generosity and kindness to me in the Parish this past year Fr. Kieran

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland runs a Social Club in Clarinbridge, If you are interested in attending, Clarinbridge Social Club, Scclu Sanctuary, Bungalow 9, Kilcornan, Clarinbridge H91 RHH4
 Contact Teresa on 087 188 8177, On every Monday 2pm-4pm.

Living Well is a free HSE programme which helps people living with a long-term health condition to manage their condition and improve their overall wellbeing. Anyone with any chronic illness such as diabetes, arthritis, COPD, cardiac illness, anxiety, etc. can benefit from these workshops. The next programme will take place in Ballinasloe and is due to commence on Friday, January 16th from 10.00am until 12.30pm, and will run for six Fridays. The programme is delivered over six weekly workshops (2.5 hrs x 6) by trained leaders. Advance registration is required. To find out more, please contact Martha McTigue on 086-0142688 or by email at mmctigue@southmayo.com

Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 25th of January 2026 -3,14,21,31.

No Jackpot winner.Match 3 winner:Tom McGarry, Brendan & Irene Kemple, Teresa Garvey, Kathleen Garvey. This week's lotto jackpot is € 5900. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

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-mailaccordballinasloe@gmail.com

Weekly '45 Card Game continues in Shragh Hall, on Friday at 8pm.

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations Danny,Aileen & Eala Flaherty, c/o Joey Forde ,Woodford, ,winner of €614 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 3rd November Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales "

Health & Wellbeing A Health and Wellbeing event will take place in Portumna Town Hall on Thursday, November the 13th, between 11am and 2pm. This event is a collaboration between Galway Rural Development's SICAP team and various local partners. There will be lots of opportunities for attendees to 'get moving', with ways to improve health and wellbeing from health checks to information stands on services. Various clubs and community inclusion organisations will be in attendance and it promises to be a special day.

LAMPSHADE ART WORKSHOP at Shragh Community Centre for 4 weeks starting on Wednesday 5th November (7pm-9pm) Cost = €25 per person. Learn to paint on your very own lampshade or get creative and make your next lampshade one of a kind! To book a place, contact Linda on 085 8612173 or Mary 087 61521668

The Legion Of Mary Meetings takes place each Wednesday evening @8pm In St . Brendan's Church Looscaun Sacristy. New members would be welcome. Please contact. Mary on 086-6685917 for further details

If you are 65 or older and would like to apply for a personal alarm, under the Seniors Alert Scheme Grant, for your safety and peace of mind, please call Galway Contact at 091 867892 or email galwaycontact@gmail.com

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Jubilee Year of Hope – 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



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.

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.clonfertdiocese.ie

Mass will be available on 105.0FM locally, on 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

www.churchservices.tv/clonfert
www.churchservices.tv/loughrea

and loss care. He has worked with the Irish Hospice Foundation for over 13 years. Bryan's talk will focus on what lies ahead for parents who have experienced the loss of a child, how we can face the challenges ahead, and what can help us to move forward.

AGM for Shragh Community Centre will be held on **Tuesday 17th June @ 8.30pm** at the Centre. This is a wonderful opportunity to voice your thoughts and ideas and be an active part of our community group. So please come along.All are welcome.

Tea dance in aid of Galway hospice in Treacy's Killimor on Saturday 21st June. Music by Tommy Flaherty and Francis Fahy. Admission €10. Refreshments served.

A Prayer for Exam Time

Lord, Be with me in this moment.

Calm my thoughts, steady my breath.

Help me to recall what I've learned,

To think clearly, To stay focused.

Give me the peace to face what's ahead,

The confidence to try, And the grace to accept whatever comes.

Let my work be honest.

Let my effort be enough. Amen

Amen.

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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
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Could You Change a Child's Life? Currently there is an urgent need for safe and loving foster homes across the country including our local area. Origins Foster Care is looking for compassionate individuals and families to provide care and support. If you feel called to foster or would like to learn more, visit www.originsfostercare.ie or contact us at eithne@originsfostercare.ie or 087 0529749. Every child deserves a home—could yours be the one?

WPD: Woodford Looscaun History Project Fieldnames/Place Names Update.

We are delighted to let you know that we have had a number of get togethers with community members from Lowertown, Allendarra East and West, Upperforge, Rossmore, Shragh, Clonmoylan and Clonoon. As all the data has to be input on the night we have limited our meetings to 2/3 people from each area. We will be revisiting all those areas again later in the year and would appreciate any help you can give us in providing us with place names/field names/ wells, mass paths, burial grounds etc. We hope to showcase some of this historical collection of work later this year. In the meantime we will continue to work on the project visiting other areas in the Woodford/Looscaun Parish and if you have any information of historical interest relating to your area please contact Angela on 086 8513031 or Geert 086 2118315.

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

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 30th April to Wednesday 7th May. Spiritual Director Fr Oliver Devine Group Leader Amy Guinan Fully inclusive 845 euro . Phone 0876552453

Friary in Moyross - Calling for Help! We're reaching out to see if anyone can assist or knows someone who can. The priests at the Friary in Moyross, Limerick, are looking to build a small extension (10 x 10ft) on their hermitage. This will be a timber extension attached to an existing timber structure. Here's how you can help: We are seeking carpenters or joiners who might volunteer a few days of their time to help with the construction. The Friary will provide accommodation for the few days it takes to build. All materials and supplies are generously being donated!
Key Details: Start Date: Wednesday, 2nd April Completion Date: Aiming for 1st May, in time for the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker.
If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact Fr. Bernardino via text on WhatsApp at 085 1160484 or by phone at 085 1439266.

Derryoover Parents Association Fundraiser presents "Beat the Millions" starting February 7th Pick five numbers from 1-50. Chosen numbers matched against Friday nights Euromillions main Draw (lucky Stars excluded). Matched numbers are crossed off. Game continues weekly until a player matches all five numbers, winning player splits the pot. Payment is €2 weekly to stay in the game Contact Geraldine Keon 0861699818/Joe Duane 0876313204 by text or WhatsApp with your chosen numbers or for more info. Payment by cash or revolut no later than 4pm on a Friday. .

Use of Churches Churches are consecrated spaces. Their walls and altar have been anointed with the sacred Oil of Chrism. They have been set apart and dedicated solely for prayer, worship, the celebration of the sacraments and sacred rituals along

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with the safekeeping of the Eucharistic presence of Jesus among us. They are sacred spaces unlike any other. They stand as a unique reminder that God is with us and walks with us on the journey of life. In order to safeguard and emphasise the sacredness of our church buildings, Universal Church Norms and Clonfert Diocesan Norms do not permit churches to be used for: Non-religious concerts, performances or exhibitions

Non-religious talks, seminars, social gatherings or functions The serving of food or beverages. Wakes or the reposing of the dead.

The Diocese of Clonfert is open to working with Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees to facilitate the use or improvement of parish halls or other parish

owned buildings to accommodate non religious activities or to discuss the de - consecration of churches surplus to current requirements so that they might be used for other than religious purposes.

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where the Holy Year Indulgence may be obtained.

www.galwaydiocese.ie

www.clonfertdiocese.ie

Tommy Larkins GAA Club are proud to be participants in the upcoming Ireland Lights Up initiative. The hugely popular "Ireland Lights Up" returns with a group session on Monday January 13th at 6:15pm and every Monday for six weeks at Tommy Larkins GAA Pitch.

This Newsletter is printed with the kind support of Woodford Heritage Centre .

Walk, Stroll or Jog. If you can't join us on the Mondays our track lights are on seven evenings a week for all to use, so no excuses and all are welcome.

You are invited to join in praying for Peace and Hope for our families, community and for our world at this time.

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Our hearts are full of longing.

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Today is the day for a new beginning.

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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,
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