

Woodford/Looscaun Parish Newsletter

Portumna Faith Community Area

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Newsletter is available on www.clonfertdiocese.ie, Eircode: H62 AK18

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Woodf4dLooscaun, Woodford/Shragh Defibrillator 999 or 112

Third Sunday of Advent Sunday (Gaudete) December 14th 2025

St John the Baptist Church, Woodford.

Tue. 7pm Sun. 11am

Sunday Dec. 14th 11am Paddy Fahy, Woodford (8th Anv)
Michael Fahy, USA & Woodford (9th Anv)
Michilin Fahy, Allendara (24th Anv)
Sunday Dec. 21st 11am Mick Fogarty, Woodford (1st Anniversary)
Tony Starr, Baypark, Woodford (1st Anniversary)

Altar Society: Mary Gorman Wiltrude Duell (Dec)

St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun

Mon. 9.30am Thur. 8.30am Fri. 7pm Sat. 7pm

Saturday Dec. 13th 7pm Julia Power, Cloncoe (5th Anniversary)
Marty Noonan, Toorleitra (50th Anniversary)
His sister Catherine O'Halloran, her son Michael (Mick)
Halloran & his wife Kathleen & deceased family members
Saturday Dec. 20th 7pm Mass for the People of the Parish

Altar Society Team 4 Mary Jo Hanley

RIP: Geraldine Conroy (nee Lynch) Woodford & formerly Trim Co. Meath. Pat Madden, Ennis Co. Clare & formerly Coose. Rose Fahy (nee Gorman) Killimor & formerly Derryoover

Offertory: Sat/ Sun 29/30th Nov. €519.50 Sat/Sun. 6/7th Dec. 455.90 Thanks for your continued support

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

Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 9th of December 2025 - 7,26,30,32. No

Jackpot winner. No Match 3 winners. Donation of €150 to Together for Alfie. This week's lotto jackpot is € 5200. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

Department of Education Survey on the Future of Primary School Patronage The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important. It will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout Ireland. It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for those who would wish for sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this

survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a Primary school student. The survey can be accessed at www.gov.ie/primaryschool survey.

Woodford-Looscaun Christmas Lights It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!! The 'Big Switch On' returns this year on **Sunday 14th December from 2pm**

We will have our usual Open Street Market, DJ, Mulled Wine Reception, Awards for Best Business Window & Best Festive House. There will be facepainting & hot chocolate for the kids, followed by a visit from **Santa @4pm** and finish with the Big Switch-on at **4:30pm**. An evening of festive fun not to be missed! Please note the **change of day and time** this year! As always, to keep everybody safe, please ensure that all children are closely supervised at all times. Follow us on Instagram @woodfordchristmaslights and our **new** Facebook page for updates.

Fundraising Raffle: We will also be having a **raffle** in the evening with fabulous hampers, vouchers and other fantastic prizes up for grabs! Tickets on sale in Daybreak and Kearys and will also be on sale on the evening of the Switch-On. Tickets €2 each or 3 for €5.

Sponsor a Light in Memory of a Loved one for Woodford-Looscaun Christmas Lights. Sponsor a light for €5 by contacting Martha Hickey on 086 1971774. A remembrance mass will be celebrated in the New Year. Mile buíochas.

Words and music for Advent and Christmas presented by students and choir of Mercy College, Woodford at 10am on **Thursday 18th December in St. John the Baptist Church, Woodford. All are welcome.**

Mass Times for Christmas Day. Wed. Dec. 24th Woodford 5pm Looscaun 7pm
Thur. Dec. 25th Woodford 12 Noon.

First Friday Calls for Christmas on Tues. Dec. 23rd

Christmas Confession. Penitential Service for Christmas on Wed. Dec. 17th in Clonfert at 7.30pm Thur. Dec. 18th Portumna 7.30pm Killimor 8.15pm
Mon. Dec. 22nd Woodford 7pm Ballinakill 8pm

Christmas Tea Dance in aid of Galway Hospice in Treacy's Killinor on Saturday 13th December. Music by Sean Brennan. Admission €10. Refreshments served. Raffle on the night for lots of prizes. Doors open at 9pm, music starts at 10pm.

Davitts 50/50 draw. Congratulations John Murphy, Duniry, winner of €620 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 15th December. Tickets available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales

For Young Women (18-40yrs) who are discerning a Vocation to Religious/Consecrated Life, monthly meetings are held in Charleville Retreat Centre, Cork. The day includes prayer, talks, Holy Mass, Adoration and a chance to meet and chat with religious sisters of different communities. If you are interested in attending please email womendiscern@corkandross.org
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

Lots of home baking, wheel of fortune with super prizes including ipad, concert tickets, vouchers, auction for firewood and bales and much more. Draw for smart TV takes place on day - tickets on sale in local shops. We have a place to sit and enjoy a cuppa and meet with friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome and all support is greatly appreciated.

This Newsletter is kindly printed by Woodford Heritage Centre

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

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.

LAMP SHADE 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

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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

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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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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.

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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.

Derryoobee 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

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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www.galwaydiocese.ie

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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.

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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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