

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 1st 2026

St John the Baptist Church, Woodford.

Mon. 10am Tue. 10am Wed. 9.30am Fri. 7pm Sat. 7pm
 Saturday Jan. 31st 7pm Geraldine Conroy, Woodford (Months Mind)
 Saturday Feb. 7th 7pm John & Nancy Keary & DFM Woodford.

Altar Society: (Feb) Maura Cooney & Jackie Hickey

St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun

Mon. 7pm Tue. 6pm Thur. 9.30am Sun. 11am

Sunday February 1st 11am Eddie & Bridie O'Grady, Bawnmore & their son Matt & DFM

*Sunday February 8th 12noon Tommy Page, Rossmore & Kate Kelly, Clonmoylan

Altar Society Team 3 Mary Jo Hanley

***Please Note that Mass on Sunday Week, February 8th is at the later time of 12 Noon to ensure the provision of Sunday Mass in other Churches in the Portumna Faith Community Area.**

RIP: Paddy Reddan, Lorrha Co. Tipperary, brother of Mary Mullin, Clonmoylan

Offertory: Sat/Sun. 24th/25th Jan. €1105.70 **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

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.

**** Please note from January Sunday Vigil Mass is in Woodford at 7pm on Saturdays and Sunday Morning Mass is in Looscaun at 11am on Sundays**

The Dioceses of Clonfert and Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora are currently hiring for a range of roles, based primarily in Galway City. Further information and full job descriptions are available at www.clonfertgalway.ie/jobs

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

First Friday Calls to the sick & housebound will be on Friday February 13th beginning at 11am. If you would like a call or know someone who would appreciate a call, please contact Fr. Kieran on 090-9749100.

Next Monday February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Candles will be blessed for both Church use and Home use on the day, after 10am Mass in Woodford and 7pm Mass in Looscaun. Thank you to all who have very kindly donated candles to the Church this year and indeed over the years.

Next Tuesday February 3rd is the Feast of Saint Blaise. The Blessing of throats associated with Saint Blaise will be administered after Mass in Woodford at 10am and Looscaun at 6pm.

World Day for Consecrated Life. We give thanks for the gift of those who live out their Christian calling in religious orders and religious communities. Their life, witness, work and prayer among us is deeply appreciated. Bishop Michael will host a special Gathering for All Religious in the Diocese of Clonfert and the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora on Sunday, February 1 st in Galway Cathedral at 12.30pm.

Solemn Novena 2026 — Galway Cathedral Solemn Novena takes place between Monday 2 and Tuesday 10 February: For further information www.galwaycathedral.ie/novena

The 5 First Saturdays Devotions: in St Michael's Church, Ballinasloe beginning on Saturday Feb 7th @ 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.

'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

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

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

Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026, presided by Bishop Michael Duignan and Bishop Michael Burrows, will be held in the Chapel of St Columbanus, University of Galway, at 7.00 pm on Sunday, 25 January 2026. The gathering concludes with refreshments. All are welcome.

St Brendans Education Centre: 091 841387: Places still available in Healthcare, Business/Admin, Information Technology(Computers) and Childcare related modules for day time courses starting in January. Email: john.melville@gretb.ie or freda.murphy@gretb.ie

"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 Reduction The 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, Sccul 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

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

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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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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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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.

Derryoober 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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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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