

## Woodford/Looscaun Parish Newsletter

### Portumna Faith Community Area

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 Newsletter is 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

### Second Sunday of Christmas Sunday January 4th 2026

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

Wed. 5pm Thur. 12 noon Fri. 10am Sat. 11am Sun. 11am  
 Saturday Jan. 3rd 7pm Martin Comar  
 & deceased members of the Comar & Sheil Families  
 Sunday Jan. 4th 11am Mattie Power, Powers Cross (5th Anv)  
 Tuesday Jan. 6th 7pm Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany  
 Saturday Jan. 10th 7pm Josphine Hunt, Allendarra (2nd Anniversary)

Altar Society: Bernadette Larkin and Geraldine Lyons (Jan)

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

Mon. 9.30am Wed. 7pm Sat. 7pm  
 Monday January 5th 7pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany  
 Sunday January 10th 11am Annie & Michael Gorman, Lowertown  
 Altar Society Team 3 Mary Jo Hanley

**RIP:** John (Jackie) Garvey, Kilcock Co. Kildare & formerly Coose, brother of Vincent Garvey, Coose.

**Offertory: Sat/Sun. 20th/21st Dec.** €727.79 Thanks for your continued support  
 Priests Christmas Collection Thank you for your contributions to this special collection that supports the payment of your Priest. New Collection Envelopes for 2026 are available in both Churches. Thank you for your generous support of the parish of Woodford & Looscaun

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

**Link for St. Brendans Church, Looscaun** [www.churchmedia.tv/stbrendans](http://www.churchmedia.tv/stbrendans)

**Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 14th of December 2025** - 1,10,12,14.

No Jackpot winner.No Match 3 winners. Donation of €150 to Ballinakill Hall .

This week's lotto jackpot is € 5300. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

**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. Míle buíochas.

**A CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE TREE** has been placed at Woodford, Gortaganna and Douras cemeteries. You are invited to bring along a red ribbon and tie it to the tree in remembrance of your loved one(s).

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

**Christmas Confession. Penitential Service for Christmas**

**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 Sonna Van Den Hoff ,winner of €685 in last weeks draw. Next draw is the Christmas bumper draw & takes place on Monday 29th December .

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)

**Mass to mark the World Day of Peace 2026** and to give thanks for and to bring to a close the Jubilee Year of Hope: Cathedral of St Brendan, Loughrea, Saturday 3rd of January 2026 at 8.00pm: Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas, Galway, Sunday 4th of January 2026 @ 10.30am. All are welcome

**St Dominic's Well Esker Athenry:** This long tradition continues! Fr Brendan Lawless will do the blessing at 11am on both 5th and 6th January. The holy water will then be available to everyone to come and take home.

**St Vincent de Paul** have been a terrific support to some of our families recently. They have asked for people to get in contact with them if the financial struggle of Christmas becomes too much in this particularly expensive year. If you feel that you need extra support this Christmas, please contact them directly, in complete confidence, on 087 3650922 or email request to [info.west@svp.ie](mailto:info.west@svp.ie)

**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 16 th 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@southmavo.com](mailto:mmctigue@southmavo.com)

**Anam Cara Galway** the organisation that supports bereaved parents is holding it&#39;s monthly Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Maldron Hotel, Headford Point, Sandy Road, Galway. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

**St Brendan's 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](http://www.fostering.ie) to learn more."

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

**Men's Development Network** – Male Advice Line Domestic abuse does not discriminate. If you&#39;re a man facing abuse, you're not alone. We a;re 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.

**Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 28th of December 2025** -9, 22, 26, 30.

No Jackpot winner.No Match 3 winner: Brid Kelly. This week's lotto jackpot is € 5500. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

**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](http://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**

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, Sccul 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-mail: accordballinasloe@gmail.com](mailto:accordballinasloe@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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://hopespace.ie), contact Áine at [support@hopespace.ie](mailto: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.  
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[www.churchservices.tv/clonfert](http://www.churchservices.tv/clonfert)  
[www.churchservices.tv/loughrea](http://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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### ***Jubilee Year of Hope – Pilgrims of Hope 2025***

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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.

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Help us to follow ever more closely the example of Jesus, your Son.

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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

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

***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](http://www.originsfostercare.ie) or contact us at [eithne@originsfostercare.ie](mailto: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](http://hopespace.ie), contact Áine at [support@hopespace.ie](mailto: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.

**Derryoobar 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.**

**Jubilee Year of Hope – Pilgrims of Hope 2025**

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**in this Jubilee Year.**

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**Breathe on us Spirit of God.**

**Inspire us.**

**Strengthen us.**

**Help us to follow ever more closely**

**the example of Jesus, your Son.**

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