

## 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

### 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 14th 2026

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

Mon. 9.15am Wed. 9.15am Fri.8pm Sat. 7pm  
 Saturday June 13th 7pm Tommie Mahon, Cappa (Anniv)  
 Friday June 19th 8pm Pat Moran, Cappa(Anniv.)  
 Saturday June 20th 7pm Margaret Power, Powers Cross (Months Mind)

Altar Society: (June) Bernadette Larkin and Geraldine Lyons

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

Tue. 8.15am Sun .11am  
 Sunday June 14th 11am Mass for the People of the Parish.  
 Sunday June 21st 11am Eileen Donneely, Douras (30th Anniv)  
 Dr. Fionnuala Cawley(nee Kennedy) (Months Mind)  
 & Dr. Frank Cawley, Oranmore & formerly Bolag (4th Anv)

Altar Society Team 2 Teresa Ryan

**Blessed Sacrament Procession will take place after 11am Mass in St. John the Baptist Church, Woodford on Sunday July 5th**

Thanks to all who use the Parish Envelope Box in making financial contributions to the Parish. 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.

**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)

**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.

**Thanks to Woodford Heritage Centre for printing the newsletter**

**"Perhaps there is no better time than now to become a priest"**

"If you ever felt that being a priest is something that you might do – something that you are interested in – something that attracts you – then, perhaps, it is what you have been looking for. Perhaps, in that stirring, God is leading you to embark on a life changing adventure. Maybe it is time to explore it further. Perhaps there is no better time than now to become a priest." -Bishop Michael

**Interested in becoming a priest in the Dioceses of Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora?** – for more information contact Fr Ian on 087 2048497 or email at: [priesthood@clonfertgalway.ie](mailto:priesthood@clonfertgalway.ie)

**Would you like your petition/thanksgiving intention** to be brought to Lourdes and offered up at the sanctuary there? Petition envelopes for this purpose are available in the church, along with a small donation envelope. Your petition will travel to Lourdes at the end of June with a member of the pilgrimage team.

**\*\*Cemetery Masses:** Gortaganna Wed. Jul.8th Douras Thur Jul. 9th Woodford Fri. Jul 10th Mass will be at 8pm Weather permitting. Please note Masses are 1 week later than what was noted in last week's newsletter

**Congratulations to the children who received their First Holy Communion on last Sunday the Feast of Corpus Christi.** Thanks to their teachers, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Whelan for all their help in preparing the children. Thanks also to Ms. Martin for leading us in the music and singing and Mr. Lohan for all his help and indeed thanks to the parents and all who made this day possible. It is a very Special Day for the Parish of Woodford/Looscaun. May God bless all in our parish and especially our children.

**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, staff rates, and application forms contact Darina, mob. 085 2288043, email [dmccarthy@clonfertgalway.ie](mailto:dmccarthy@clonfertgalway.ie), or contact your local parish priest.

**9 day Spanish Camino July 11th-20th**, is a fantastic opportunity to join Bishop Duignan and young adults to walk the historical route across Northern Spain. Enjoy adventure and meet new people. Bargain price: €699, with part sponsorship possible. Places limited email [youthpilgrimage@clonfertgalway.ie](mailto:youthpilgrimage@clonfertgalway.ie)

**The Diocese of Clonfert invites applications for the position of Diocesan Advisor for Primary Religious Education.** The role involves supporting religious education in primary schools and assisting parishes in supporting parents of primary school children. Further details are available at [clonfertgalway.ie/jobs](http://clonfertgalway.ie/jobs). Applications close at 5.00 pm on Friday, 10 July 2026. **On this year's Day for Life, Sunday 21 st June**, we reflect on the wonder of human life from the moment of conception. We remember how the LORD Jesus Christ Himself sanctified and experienced the beginning of life in the world as an unborn child, hidden in the womb of Mary. Mary knew that she was carrying the Son of God – God and man – as soon as He was conceived. John the Baptist leapt in his mother Elizabeth's womb when Mary greeted her. Our Lady treasured Our Lord in her heart and womb until His birth. To read the full bishops' message visit [www.councilforlife.ie](http://www.councilforlife.ie)

**National Pilgrimage for Life –The National Pilgrimage for Life, organised by the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference**, will be celebrated on Saturday 20 th June in Knock Shrine. Mass will be celebrated at 3.00pm in the Basilica, during which the Anointing of the Sick will take place. Main celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Niall Coll. We invite you to join us in Knock to celebrate the gift of life and to pray for the protection of all human life. **National Synodal Pathway Update Preparations are continuing for the National Synodal Assembly, which will take place in October.** Working groups from across the country are reflecting on the key priorities identified through the synodal process and helping to shape the next stage of the Church's journey in Ireland. To learn more and view the latest video update from Fr Declan Hurley, Chairperson of the National Synodal Pathway, and Patricia Carroll, member of the National Synodal Pathway and Pastoral Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Dublin, please scan the QR code or follow the link provided.

<https://theway.ie/the-irish-synodal-pathway-progress-and-purpose/>

**3-Day and 5-Day Residential Retreats July 2026: Led by Fr. Prince Clarence SJ**

**3-Day Retreats: Faith Formation based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and Inner Healing Adoration. Dates: July 7th – 9th and July 14th – 16th**

**5-Day Ignatian Retreat:** This is an opportunity to reflect on life in light of God's boundless love and to develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of Jesus. Dates: July 20th – 24th Visit our website for more details: [www.ruachcatholicministry.org](http://www.ruachcatholicministry.org) Contact: Oonagh 086 1736181 or Phyllis 085 7733037

C

Venue: De La Salle Retreat Centre, Castletown, Co. Laois, R32 N6D8. These retreats are strictly residential. Visit our website for more details: [www.ruachcatholicministry.org](http://www.ruachcatholicministry.org) Contact: Oonagh 086 1736181 or Phyllis 085 7733037

**Peter's Pence Collection** is the name for the financial help offered by the faithful to the Holy Father in support of his apostolic and charitable activity throughout the world. Thank you for your contributions to this special collection. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 8th of June 2026** - 7,15,19,32.

No Jackpot winner. Match 3 winners: Yvonne Larkin, Joe Larkin, John Connors.

This week's lotto jackpot is € 3000. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

**Tea dance in aid of Galway hospice** in Treacys Killimor on Saturday 20th June. Music by Sean Brennan. Admission €10. Refreshments served. Doors open 9pm music starts at 10pm

**Davitts 50/50 draw.**: Congratulations to PJ Molloy, Tynagh, winner of €566 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 15th June. 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)

**If you are a male carer, or you know of one**, who would like, or needs to take a bit of time to recharge, join Galway Rural Development and Family Carers Ireland for a FREE Male Carers wellness event in the Raheen Woods Hotel on Thursday, 18th June from 11 am to 2 pm. This will be a chance to try out some activities, enjoy a light lunch and connect with other carers. There is also a FREE gym and pool pass to Tranquillity Leisure and Spa, and a goody bag for all attendees. To book your FREE place, email [galwaycs@familycarers.ie](mailto:galwaycs@familycarers.ie)

**Irish Workhouse Centre Portumna Fundraiser** on Friday 19th June 8pm

**Mike Denver & Band in Concert with guest artist Éabha McMahon**

To support the renovation of the Workhouse Dining Hall/Chapel.

**TICKETS** online [irishworkhousecentre.ie](http://irishworkhousecentre.ie) or from the Workhouse.

Pastoral Development and Youth Ministry Support collection. Thank you for your contributions to this special collection which will take place this weekend.

**Davitts: Congratulations** to Jim Gunning Moyglass, winner of €570 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 18th May. 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) .

**DAB Radio: Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB+)** is now available in the Woodford/Looscaun area. The strongest signal in this area is 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 & iRadio 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 21 stations are 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](http://www.failedab.ie)

*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*

### **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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.creideamh.ie/youth-club) for details.

***The 5 First Saturdays Devotions: in St Michael's Church, Ballinasloe*** beginning on Saturday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto:john.melville@gretb.ie) or [maureen.shea@gretb.ie](mailto: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<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

C

**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](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**

**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](mailto:mmctigue@southmayo.com)

**Tommy 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 [F-mailaccordballinasloe@gmail.com](mailto:F-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](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.

**LAMPSHADE 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)

**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.

**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.

[www.galwaydiocese.ie](http://www.galwaydiocese.ie)

[www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://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](http://www.churchmedia.tv/stjohnbaptist)

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

[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**

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

**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, Clonmoyle 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.

**Derryoobor 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.

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](http://www.galwaydiocese.ie)

[www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://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.

C

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*

*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*

R