

Woodford/Looscaun Parish Newsletter

Portumna Faith Community Area

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

Third Sunday of Easter April 14th 2024

St John the Baptist Church, Woodford.

Mass Mon 9.30am Tue.9.30am Wed.9.30am Fri. 9.30am Sat. 10am & 7pm
Saturday April 13th 7pm Nancy McManus, Teresa Mitchell & Delia Fox, formerly Woodford
& deceased members of the Mahon Family
Patsy Hayes, Derrygoolin
Saturday April 20th 7pm Annie & Vincent Kennedy, Drimnamuckla.
Maureen Page, Woodford (10th Anniversary)

Altar Society: Team 2 Brid McNamara Kitty Moroney

St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun

Mass & Ceremonies Sun. 11am
Sunday April 14th 11am Michael & Kathleen Coway, Douras
Sunday April 21st 11am Willie Flanagan, Clonoon .

Altar Society Team 4 Betty Whelan Maura Tully

Church Offertory: 924.20 Euro. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish. Thanks to all who support the various Collections including the Priests Easter Collection.

Mass will be available on 105.0FM locally, on the 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

Also a new app is now available on Firestick so viewing the Church webcam is made easier to watch on your television. Just search for the ITech Media app on your Firestick. Any queries, please contact Fr. Kieran on 090-9749100

RIP: Lottie Doran, Archerstown, Thurles brother in law of Mick Fogarty who passed away recently.
William Smith, Bolag (25th Anniversary)

Dates to Note

First Holy Communion on Sunday April 28th

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday May 16th at 11am

New Email Address for the Parish Newsletter. Please direct Notices you wish to publish in the Parish Newsletter to this new email address woodfordlooscaunnewsletter@gmail.com

Medjugorje International Youth Festival from July 31st– August 7th 2023. Spiritual Director: Bishop Michael Duignan. OPEN TO ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 (by 31st July 2024) AND 35.

Subsidised Fare €680 – all inclusive. For further information and booking form contact the Clonfert Diocesan Office: tel. 091 841 560, email office@clonfertdiocese.ie, or contact your local priest.
Limited spaces – first come, first served. Closing date 12th of April.

Information and Support for Birth Mothers - whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at www.birthinfo.ie or by calling the relevant section of TUSLA at 0818 445 500

Gamblers Anonymous – Want to stop Gambling Helpline 086 349 4450 Weekly Meetings Tuesday GELS Room, Main Street Ballinasloe H53 RC95 @ 8pm.

Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 1st of April 2024 - 7,18,27,32 - No Jackpot Winner, Match 3 Winner €150 - Joe&Hannah Forde. This week's lotto jackpot is €3 500. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

Vigil of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood in the Diocese of Clonfert to coincide with **Vocations Sunday 2024** will take place directly after 8pm Mass until midnight on Saturday 20th April 2024 in the Cathedral of St Brendan, Loughrea. Please make a special effort to come and join

us. Vocations Workshop - Bishop Michael will lead a workshop for those who might be interested in Diocesan Priesthood in the Diocese of Clonfert or the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora on Sunday Afternoon the 28 th of April 2024 from 2-6pm. Further Information available from Fr. Ian O' Neill, email galwaypriesthood@gmail.com or telephone - 087 2048497

The 'Synodal Explored' conference will be held on 19 and 20 April, where Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops will be the keynote speaker. The conference is open to the public and is free of charge. Further details are available on www.knockshrine.ie Tel: 094 93 88100 email: communications@knockshrine.ie

Worldwide Marriage Encounter – All married couples deserve a WWME weekend.Friday 26 th – 28 th April 2024 in Focolare Centre Prosperous Co Kildare. Register online www.marriageencounter.ie – Good Marriages can always be made better!

Tommie Larkins Lotto results for the 7th of April 2024 - 11,25,29,31 - No Jackpot Winner, No Match 3 Winner. Donation of €150 to: Ability West- ASH SERVICES. This week's lotto jackpot is €3 600. Buy tickets online or in local shops/pubs.

Tommy Larkins Gaa Club are currently holding a fundraiser raffle, with some fantastic prizes up for grabs. The funds raised will go towards improving our facilities and investing in our players' development. You can purchase your tickets from any player or committee member or by using the following link https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Tommy_Larkins_GAA_Club/ticketsales
Shagh 6km – Run/Jog/Walk on Sunday 14th April. Starting from Shragh Community Centre at 11am. Registration 10 – 10.45am. Entry: Adults €10/Children €5. Family Discounts. Refreshments afterwards. All proceeds for upkeep and maintenance of Shragh Community Centre. For more info phone/text Mary @ 087 6152668 All are welcome

CANA Talks – “A Roadmap to Happiness” – T.F Royal Theatre, Castlebar – Friday 31 st May, 8 pm. 6 speakers plus Special Guests. Inspiration + Entertainment. Each speaker has just 15 minutes to inspire you (from a faith perspective)! Enjoy real-life stories, humour, inspiring talks, great visuals, music, + more. This is not a conference, but a show! Tickets €20 + booking fee www.ticketmaster.ie. Can pay cash at the door. www.canatalks.com.

VAKS PROGRAMME: Knock Youth Ministry are now accepting applications for VAKS (Volunteer at Knock Shrine). This programme offers an opportunity for young people in TY, 5th and 6th year to come to Knock to volunteer for a weekend in either July or August. This is a great way to meet new friends, serve others, express your faith and have fun! It is a particularly exciting opportunity this year as we launch our new state of the art Youth Village this summer! For further information please check out our website www.knockshrine.ie/vaks-volunteer-at-knock-shrine or you can contact us on 094 9375321 or youthministry@knockshrine.ie

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

Irish charity Bóthar are dedicating their Easter Appeal to humanitarian aid for Palestine. Cheques or Postal Orders may be sent to Bóthar, Regus Castletroy, Business Reply, Limerick, V94 Y6FD. Donations by phone on 1800 26 84 63 or online at Bóthar.ie.

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Eamonn Riordan , Ballinakill, winner of €620 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 15th April. Tickets available available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales . Thanks for your continued support

Tea dance in aid of Galway hospice in Treacy's Killimor on Saturday 20th April. Music by Joe Cleary. Admission €10. Refreshments served.

The Youth 2000 Connaught retreat will take place in Calasanctius College, Oranmore on the weekend of May 10th to 12th, consisting of workshops, talks, testimonies, music, prayer and time to relax & meet with others. Come along for the weekend or pop in & say hello! Donation only, 16-35yrs. To book a place or for more information, visit www.youth2000.ie or email connaught@youth2000.ie.

Church Envelopes for 2024 are now available in the Churches, Woodford Envelopes in Woodford and Looscaun Envelopes in Looscaun. Thanks to all who have supported the various Church Collections this past year. It is very much appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul, Portumna recruitment Do you want to help people in your Community? You know the issues in your Community and by offering a little help at the right time can give people hope for the future. Do you have approx 1-2 hours available weekly? If so, please apply by sending a text or WhatsApp with your name, address & contact details to SVP phone no: 087 3650922 and we will advise you of recruitment process For further information on the work of SVP, visit www.svp.ie

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 ballinasloeaccord@eircom.net

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. If you have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church. If you have the enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team in supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage Accord wants to hear from you! Successful applicants will receive professional training and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes locally. Contact Aisling on 01 505 3112 or by email to marriagepreparation@accord.ie www.accord.ie

SHRAGH 6KM – Run/Jog/Walk on Sunday 14th April. Starting from Shragh Community Centre at 11am. Registration 10 – 10.45am. Entry: Adults €10/Children €5. Family Discounts. Refreshments afterwards. All proceeds for upkeep and maintenance of Shragh Community Centre. For more info phone/text Mary @ 087 6152668 All are welcome

DATES OF PASSOVER AND EASTER At the Council of Nicaea in 325, the date for Easter was fixed as the Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox. Sunday, 31 March 2024 is the feast of Easter. Eastern Christians calculate the date of Easter according to the Julian Calendar, the Calendar in general use before the Gregorian reform of 1582. One of the reforms was the removal of ten days from the Calendar and this discrepancy, now thirteen days, between the Julian and Gregorian Calendars results often in a difference in the date for Easter in East and West as they follow the two Calendars. This happens in 2024 when the date of Easter for Eastern Christians is Sunday, 5 May. The feast of Passover is a seven day feast, beginning at sundown on the evening of 22 April 2024 (14 Nisan 5784).

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Eileen Whyte, Woodford, winner of €600 in last weeks draw. Next draw takes place on Monday 19th February. Tickets available available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales ". Thanks for your continued support **St Vincent de Paul, Portumna recruitment**

Do you want to help people in your Community? You know the issues in your Community and by offering a little help at the right time can give people hope for the future.

Do you have approx 1-2 hours available weekly? If so, please apply by sending a text or WhatsApp with your name, address and contact details to SVP phone no: 087 3650922

and we will advise you of recruitment process

For further information on the work of SVP look online at SVP.ie

Join the Galway 40 days for Life Lenten

campaign to witness peacefully and to pray publicly, on Saturdays during Lent, outside UHG for a return to the Gospel of Life. 40 days for Life is the world's largest grassroots moment to end Abortion. To join : contact 083 423 1791.

Loving Father! You are the source of all that is: our beginning and our end .Pour out your Spirit upon us. Form in us the mind of Christ.Give us a greater appreciation for the precious gift of life. Renew in us a commitment to building a community where every human life is welcomed and valued from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. Draw near to those who are sick or dying. Help those who love them and care for them. Bless us now and at the hour of our death. Amen Our Lady of Clonfert! Pray for us!

New Church Webcams. New Church webcams are now operational in both St. John the Baptist Church, Woodford and St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun. This is thanks to a most generous donation to the Parish to install webcams. This and your continued financial support of the Parish has enabled them to be installed and funded for the coming year. Thank you for that generous support

vening social. To view the full programme and to register visit www.evangelium.ie or search 'Evangelium Ireland'

Davitts 50/50 draw.: Congratulations to Christina Gantley, Killeen, winner of €575 in last weeks draw. Next draw is our Christmas draw & takes place on Monday 5th February. available in local shops/pubs or online at www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Davitts_Camogie_Club/TicketSales ". Thanks for your continued support

How to view the Church Webcam on your Laptop, Desktop, Tablet or Mobile Phone. Type in www.churchmedia.tv. Once on the site click in 'Search for your Church' and type in Looscaun or Woodford. Then click on the picture of the Church either Looscaun or Woodford to take you to the webcam for either St. Brendan's Church, Looscaun or St. John the Baptist Church,

Woodford. You can also link directly to either webcam by typing in www.churchmedia.tv/stbrendans for the Looscaun Church webcam or www.churchmedia.tv/stjohnbaptist for the Woodford Church Webcam. You can still watch Mass and Scheduled Church Services via the Woodford/Looscaun Parish Facebook Page which is now linked to the Church webcam. www.facebook.com/woodf4dlooscaun is the link to the Woodford/Looscaun Parish Facebook Page.

Tús community work placement scheme:

Galway Rural Development have a number of vacancies in the Woodford Area and also the surrounding areas of Abbey, Duniry and Tynagh

If you are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (Means tested payment) or a Disability Allowance (DA) payment for a minimum of 12 months, interested in developing new skills and re-joining the work force for 19.5 hours per week, we can help.

In Woodford Development Group we have a Tús vacancy for a Maintenance/Caretaker Person.

Please contact the Tús Supervisor ~ Karen Connolly on 087 6903463 for more information.

Calling Pioneers and Friends to the 25 th Pioneer National Ball. An evening of celebration and fun on Saturday April 6 th 2024. Mass at 6pm in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar, followed by special guest speaker, dinner, music and dancing at the Annebrook House Hotel, Mullingar. Extra activities on Friday night and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. For details/ tickets contact Dermot Fagan 085-7201646 or Daisy Carey 087-6544626

Celebration of the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and ,Confirmation 2024

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 this year. We also remember their families, sponsors, teachers and our entire parish community who will journey with them.

New Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees At the moment parishes throughout the Diocese of Clonfert are reconstituting their Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees. These bodies are living examples of the synodal working together of the priest and people for the good of the whole parish. Training for members will take place in the New Year along with a formal commissioning before Easter. For more information visit www.clonfertdiocese.ie

Meals4Health - Galway – Delivers Fresh Delicious Affordable Meals to your door. Suited to the dietary requirements of the older person. Phone 091354000 for more information or visit www.meals4health.ie Special and modified dietary requirements catered for also. Nationwide delivery available.