Mass Times may need to be changed at short notice,
Confessions: By appointment

Parish Office Hours
10am to **1pm**. For Mass Bookings, Arranging Baptisms, Certs, Weddings, Mass Cards. (for both churches)

Notices for Newsletter
Deadline is 12noon on Wednesday. Either drop into office or Email to info@headfordchurch.com It is not always possible to publish all notices due to space, so parish takes preference.

Baptisms: **1st Sunday & 3rd Saturday** of each month with prior notice.

First Fridays or a **Hospital visit**, phone office

Holy Face Devotion on **Tues. 6.45-7pm** in **Headford**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Mon. 9.15am –11am, & 7pm–9pm, Tues. 7pm-8pm.** in **Headford.** On **Tue 10-11am** & **Thurs 10am-11am and 6pm-7pm** in **Claran**

Offertory Collection in **Headford €790.00** last weekend and in **Claran €392.00. Thank you**

Headford & Claran Parish is committed to the protection of all children and young people. Safe Guarding Officers are PJ Newell and Maura Moran .

Holy Hour on Parish Radio every Friday 3-4 pm with **Divine Mercy** and **Stations of the Cross**.

Altar Candle Intentions for December: Headford: Private Intention and Intentions Mary Raftery and family. **Claran** Intentions Joyce Family, Knocklahard & Ann & Liam Greaney..

Readers for December Headford: **Sat 7pm** Rita O'Shea. **Sun 11.30am** Mary McHugh.
Claran **Sun 10am** Michelle Kenny.
Ministers of the Eucharist Headford **7pm** Mary Fahy & Mary M Kyne. **11.30am** Mary McHugh & Siobhan Waldron. **Claran** Sun. **10am** Tom D'Arcy. **Baskets:** Headford 7pm Declan McDonagh, Mary Fahy. 11.30am Margaret Moran & Bridget Hynes.

We as a Parish Community offer our sincere sympathy to the family, relatives, friends and neighbours of **Joe Concannon, Deerpark. Padraic Lydon, Kells, Co Meath –** brother of the late John Lydon, Slieveroe and Teresa Barrett. **Sr Kathleen Newell** in her 101st year - sister of Fr. Martin. May they rest in peace.

Third Week of Advent is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.
A Beautiful Advent Tradition: Bambinelli Sunday, Blessing the Christ Child takes place today. The blessing of the "Bambinelli" [Baby Jesus figurines] as they are called in Rome, reminds us that the crib is a school of life where we can learn the secret of true joy.

Christmas Triduum Cards now on sale in the Parish **Office €3 each or 4 for €10.** Masses will be offered in Headford on the 20th, 23rd, 24th at 10am and in Claran on 21st, 22nd at 9.30am and 24th at 7pm.

Annual Collection for **St Vincent de Paul** taking place at all churches this weekend.

Lough Derg online shop offers unique Christmas Cards, featuring scenes of the Island from across the centuries and bespoke Gifts including a limited edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle. Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are also available – Fr La, Prior, will offer a triduum of Masses beginning on Christmas Eve for all those who are enrolled. Visit www.loughderg.live/shop Telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518 Delivery nationwide and Click & Collect Service available.

Now active on our website

iDonate
Making Giving Easier

Parish of Killursa & Killower



December 11th/12th 2021 Third Sunday of Advent
Fr. Ray Flaherty PP – 35448 info@headfordchurch.com
Website: www.headfordchurch.com Parish Radio 108fm. Facebook Page
*Headford Parish Web cam: Churchtv.ie/headword, churchtv.ie/claran***Mass**

Intentions for Headford

Sat 11th Dec	**7.00pm**	Paddy Kyne, Mansfield, England RIP Deceased of Coyne Family, Headford & Loughrea RIP Willie Hynes, Cahermacnally RIP
Sun 12th	**11.30am**	**Rita O'Hara, Derry RIP (MM)**, Her husband Johnny RIP (Parents of Shona Moran, Lettera). Tommie & Nonie Rea, Galway RIP James & Mary McDonagh, Lisheenagaoithe. James Hynes, Crosswood RIP (Anniversary)
Fri 17th	**11.30am**	Private Intention. Ger Flanagan, Ballyconlaught and his parents Margaret & Joe RIP
Sat 19th	**10.00am** **7.00pm**	Mamie McDonagh, Ellagh Est. Mary Biggins, Culleen RIP Mary Margaret Lally, Cloughanover RIP Deirdre Joyce nee O'Shea RIP (Anniversary) Luan McCaul, Cong Rd RIP (6th Anniversary) Lucy O'Brien, Headford RIP Patrick & Margaret Kyne, Ross and all deceased of family. RIP
Sun 19th	**11.30am**	Mary Biggins, Culleen RIP (1st Anniversary) Lucia Cleary-Mulrooney RIP (Anniversary) May Corbett, Main St RIP (Anniversry) Pat & Mary Newel, Ballymana RIP Nora & Michael Kyne, Ballymana RIP Pat (8th Anniversary & Eileen Audley, Liss RIP Phylis Conroy, Oranmore RIP

Mass Intentions for Claran

Sun 12th Dec	**10.00am**	PJ & Joan McCaffrey RIP Mark & Kitty Greaney and all deceased of family RIP John Lydon, Slieveroe, His sister Teresa Barrett and brother Padraic Lydon, Kells RIP Private Intention.
Sun 19th	**10:00am**	Paul O'Toole, Curramore RIP (2nd Anniversary) Mathias & all deceased of Keady Family, Ower RIP Neil & Kathleen Joyce, Culleen RIP Private Intention.

Covid 19 Updates: For clarity following this weeks updated Covid guidance, Religious Services in Places of Worship are unchanged regarding capacity, with all other protective measures in place to ensure safety of the congregation. Likewise, there are no changes to attendance at funeral services however any post funeral service gatherings must comply with hospitality rules including no multiple table bookings. With regard to wakes in private homes general advice on household mixing is 3 other households (4 in total) applies.

Offertory Envelopes for the coming year are now ready for distribution/collection. They cannot be left in the church due to data Protection. Thank you to the volunteers that have come forward to distribute to their area. **Area's covered so far are** Ross, Carnakib, Ballyconlaught, Ellagh, Carheens. Curramore, Ellagh Est. Carowbeg, Ower, Owermore, Owerbeg. Thank you. **Volunteers needed to distribute to the following areas::** Knocklahard, Annakeen, Carnacrow, Clydagh/Logawania, Kilbeg, Claran, Cloonkeely, Rinnaknock, Inchquin, Greenfields, Slieveroe, Headford Town, Castleview, Galway Rd, Meadow Hill, Cordarra, Cong Rd, Crossnaun, Culleen, Farren, Liss, Rockhill, Cloneen, Windfort, Keernaun, Mountross, Rafee, Oaklands, Lettera, Crosswood, keelcoil, Cahermacnally, Cloughanover, Ballyhale, or please **CALL TO THE OFFICE AND COLLECT YOUR OWN BOX. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT ESPECIALLY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.**

St. Fursey's LGFA annual **5km Resolution Run/Walk** will take place on **Sunday 2nd January 2022**. Entry is online on clubforce & more information can be found on St. Fursey's social media pages.

Join our Big Family Christmas! By setting your place at the Mary's Meals Big Family Christmas table, you'll help to feed a hungry child for a whole school year for less than €20. You'll get a beautiful digital placemat, featuring the name of your friend or loved one, to email or print out and pass on. Go to www.marysmeals.ie to set your place or call Patricia on 086 314 0814. Mary's Meals feeds over 2 Million children each school day in 19 of the world's poorest countries. At least 93% of all donations go directly to their charitable activities.

NBSCCCI Review of Safeguarding Practice in the Archdiocese of Tuam: The *National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland* (NBSCCCI) has conducted a review of safeguarding practice in the Archdiocese of Tuam, and its final Report was received on last week. Archbishop Michael Neary has welcomed the findings of the Report and its positive assessment of the application of the seven safeguarding standards right across the Archdiocese. To coincide with publishing the Report on the diocesan website, Archbishop Neary wishes to thank and congratulate all those who have worked tirelessly to bring safeguarding practice in the diocese to this high standard. He thanks everybody who has been involved in any way, especially the priests and Local Safeguarding Representatives, volunteers and youth workers, parish and diocesan personnel, the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee, the Diocesan Case Management Committee, the Designated Liaison Persons, and those who deliver the safeguarding training. This, Archbishop Neary believes, has been a truly synodal exercise, and it has been most affirming to see the good work at every level being recognised and acknowledged by independent external reviewers. The Report is available on the diocesan website https://www.tuamarchdiocese.org/2021/12/nbsccc-safeguarding-review-2021/.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2022: 7 Nights Apartment B&B and return Airport transfer from Dubrovnik or Split from €315 per person sharing. Guaranteed Airport transfer price for any flight. Contact us for details and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Parish Office . You can contact us by phone or email and we will get back to you. We can arrange masses and mass cards over the phone and post them out to you, we are now in a position to take card payments over the phone. Office Hours: **Mon to Fri 10.00am – 1.00pm**

The Fourth Week of Advent, our final days of preparation before Christmas, we ask Christ to forgive us for our sins and, through His grace, to create us anew when He comes. This week is also a time to reflect on our Advent journey

We welcome more people into our Church in the coming weeks. I appreciate your ongoing support and the commitment of so many parishioners in helping keep our parish church safe for everyone. Please use the same guidelines below until otherwise stated. ♦ Please maintain 1 metre social distance. ♦ Face masks must be worn. Please use hand sanitizer as you enter the church. ♦ Holy Communion will be distributed as before, please observe one way system which will be announced at Masses. Holy Communion will be distributed on the hand only. ♦ Mass leaflet/newsletter available at church doors. ♦ Shaking hands as "a sign of peace" or at other times is discouraged. ♦ Collection boxes at church doors for weekly/dues envelopes ♦ Please leave the Church in an orderly fashion No congregating by people before /after any service in the Church or Church grounds. ♦ Please use hand sanitizer as you leave the Church. We have moved into a new phase against Covid 19 with a strong emphasis on personal responsibility and mutual respect.

Church Collections: With restrictions since March and more limited avenues of donation I'm very touched by people's thoughtfulness and generosity to their Parish. I list the ways people can donate.
Presbytery Letterbox some leave envelopes in my door which I secure right away, or give to me in person.
Bank Transfer: there is the option of Electronic Transfer which some have chosen to do, details below of the account for Both Headford and Claran please put your name or box number in the reference section.
St Mary's Church Headford BIC BOFIIE2D IBAN Details IE27 BOFI 9038 7528 9740 34
St Mary's Church Claran BIC BOFIIE2D IBAN Details IE62 BOFI 9038 7528 9727 25 **Thank you to all who sent in the CHY3 Cert**

First Saturday Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima 9am in Headford Church on the first Saturday of the month. Rosary & Meditation followed at 10am with Mass. **Next Date is January 2nd**

Mass Cards: There is now available in the parish office a selection of mass cards for different occasions: Sympathy, Birthday Remembrance, Get Well, Mass Bouquet, Thinking of you etc. Some of these offerings, together with the intentions are been forwarded to Missionary priests to celebrate individual Masses as requested. It would be impossible to say all these masses in the parish

Mass Bookings: Please note that due to high volume of mass bookings, we would strongly advise to allow two to three months in advance for booking anniversary masses so you can get the dates you would like

Holy Hour on Parish Radio every Friday 3-4 pm with Divine Mercy and Stations of the Cross.

Adoration: In Headford Church Monday and Tuesday evenings from 7pm-8pm. A Quiet moment to offer prayer and reflection.

Altar Servers: Due to the high numbers of Covid, it has been decided not to proceed with having Altar Servers at present. I'm sure this is very disappointing for all the children who have put their names forward. We will re visit the situation in the new year. Thank you.

Communion at Home: We are very conscious that many parishioners have been unable to receive Communion since the lockdown. Many of you join with us for Mass via the Webcam, Facebook and on Parish Radio. House calls including First Fridays are not permitted during Phase 5 Lockdown (emergencies excepted). We can however bring Holy Communion to your front door Contact Parish Office for details and to arrange day and time.

Holy Water: If people would like water to be blessed, please leave in a sealed container with name behind the Altar & it will be blessed and can be collected the next day

The Drop-In Listening Service at Knock Counselling Centre is open to anyone. If you feel the need to talk to someone in confidence, you can 'drop -in' (no appointment necessary) on Thursdays. The drop-in service begins at 11am with final sessions no later than 3pm. This is an open and accessible service to help those who find themselves in need of support. Find out more by contacting Knock Counselling Centre; T. 094 93 75032 E. counsellingoffice@knockshrine.ie

Chy3 Charity Donations Scheme: Thanks to all who have returned forms. It's still not too late to sign up. Only requirements is you need to be donating €250.00 or more to the Church in each calendar year. Please consider doing so as it is a substantial income for the church and it costs you no more than your usual contributions each week. Your PPS no. is forwarded to revenue along with the amount donated in your envelopes and revenue takes care of the rest. If you would like further information contact the presbytery also the forms are available at the Church doors please feel free to take one fill it up and return to office. Thanks to all who have signed up to the scheme so far

WESTDOC: New Westdoc phone number will be **0818 360 000**. Please save the new number to your mobile phone or keep it near your landline. Please remember when phoning Westdoc to have your Eircode close to hand and your Medical Card Number if applicable

Knock Shrine: Visitors are welcome to attend public Mass at the following times: Monday-Friday in the Parish Church at 12 noon, 3pm & 7.30pm (Rosary at 7pm) Saturdays in the Basilica at 12 noon, 3pm & 7.30pm (Rosary at 7pm) Sundays in the Basilica at 12 noon & 3pm (Rosary at 2.30pm) Confessions are available daily from 11am-3pm in the Chapel of Reconciliation Private Prayer is available daily in the Apparition Chapel from 9am-9pm We ask you to be mindful of your own safety and that of your fellow pilgrims when you visit Knock Shrine and to respect proper advice such as wearing masks, sanitising hands and keeping the proper distance. Our ushers and stewards are on hand to assist you as you participate in the Sacraments here at the Shrine. We will continue to stream Mass daily on our website here. Full details of our opening hours and Mass times are available here.

Senior Line Freephone: If you are an older person and would like someone to talk to, particularly since Covid-19, consider phoning Senior Line. We are Ireland's national confidential service for older people. We are open every day of the year from 10am-10pm. We are older people too, trained to listen and support. We would love to hear from you. Freefone 1800 80 45 91.

Bealach Nua :We are a recovery oriented family peer support service which offers families/friends of people with mental health challenges an opportunity to engage with family peer supporters through individual, group work, wellness days and information evenings. For further information or to access the service please call 094 9049392 or Fran 086 0450835/Noel 087 9749288

Note: To those of you who are feeling fragile, frightened and alone, please don't, we're all going through the same thing. At the same time, there's a struggle for some of you. We're on your side and we're thinking of you today. Try to stay optimistic and we will get through this, please feel free to pick up the phone at any time and give us a ring if you need anything or just a friendly

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support

Cloughanover Community Centre; Most activities have resumed. Contact 087 2737032 for further information

Corrib Male Singers meet on **Tuesday night** at **8pm** in the **Anglers Rest Hotel**. New members are welcome.

Sean Chairde are back in **St. Fursa's Hall** on **Friday.** We welcome new members**. Transport** is available by **contacting Lena** at **087 2873542.**

Irish Dance Classes commence in **Headford Parish Hall** on **Monday** at **5pm.** Enquiries to 087 6724804

Preparing for the Season of Advent

The Advent Wreath helps us as we get ready to welcome Jesus at Christmas

Light has always been a symbol of hope in the darkness. Long, long before Jesus was born, we know that the people of Eastern Europe made wreaths of evergreen branches and added lighted candles as a sign of hope during the dark days of winter. This was a reminder to them that after the darkest time of the year, spring would soon be with them. In the northern countries of Europe, lights were placed on wagon wheels and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn the wheel of the earth back towards the sun. By the 1500's, Christians had adopted this tradition and were using **Advent Wreaths** as part of their preparations for Christmas. In the 17th century, the Advent Wreath was used throughout Germany to mark the time spent waiting for the birth of the Baby Jesus at Christmas. From Germany, this tradition spread to the rest of Europe and eventually all around the world.

What does the Advent Wreath mean?

Usually, the Advent Wreath is made with 5 candles, 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white, with a circle of evergreen leaves wrapped around them. This circle reminds us that God's love for us has no end.

The candles remind us that Jesus is the light that has come into the world. (See John 3;19).

We use 3 purple and 1 pink candle to represent the four weeks of Advent. The colour purple is used because long ago, purple dye was expensive and only worn by royalty. Advent is the season of the coming of our King.

The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, Joyful Sunday, and it reminds us that we are now very close to Christmas. Long ago, Advent was a time of fasting, like Lent. People were allowed to break" their fast on Joyful Sunday, and the priest wore pink or rose coloured vestments at Mass. That tradition soon became part of the Advent Wreath.

As we light the candles each week, we are reminded of our journey towards Christmas when we welcome the baby, Jesus. The people of the Old Testament waited a long, long time for this to happen. They waited, in JOYFUL HOPE for God to be with them. They called Him Emmanuel. We light the white candle on Christmas Day, because our waiting is over. God is with us! O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

The Advent Wreath in the School or Classroom Sacred Space

Place the Advent Wreath in your classroom Sacred Space. Light the candles during prayer time for the four weeks of Advent.

Week 1: Light ONE Purple Candle
Week 2: Light TWO Purple Candles
Wk 3: Light TWO Purple Candles and ONE Pink Candle
Wk. 4 Light ALL 4 candles



The Jesse Tree



- The Jesse tree is a very old Christmas tradition and first started in medieval times.
- It tells the story of Jesus' family tree.
- Jesse is the father of the great King David in the Old Testament.
- The Jesse Tree shows us some of the important people in the Old Testament.
- We hang ornaments on the Jesse tree, which tell a story from the Bible about God's people before Jesus was born.
- Each story shows God's plan to save us and to prepare us for the coming of His Son, the Messiah.

