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

Parish Office Hours **10am** to **2pm**. 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 *093 354448*

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 €825.00** last weekend and in **Claran €440. 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 & Headford Church every Friday 3-4 pm with **Divine Mercy** and **Stations of the Cross**. All are Welcome.

Altar Candle Intentions for December: Headford Intentions of the O'Brien family Clooneen. **Claran** Intentions of Carmel O'Toole and family, Curramore.

Ministers for November Headford: Readers: **Sat 7pm** Cathy Cunningham **Sun 11.30am** Siobhan Waldron **Ministers of the Eucharist** : Sat. **7pm** Mary Margaret Kyne, Donnacha Roache, Michael Hughes Sun **11.30am** John McHugh, Mary McHugh **Baskets: Sat 7pm**: Declan McDonagh, Mary Fahy, **Sun.11.30am**: James Moran, Margaret Moran, Bridget Hynes.
Ministers for November Claran: Reader Sun 10am: Helena Hastings
Minister of the Eucharist: Tom Darcy, May Kenny

First Friday Calls: will take place in the week leading up to Christmas**.**

Christmas Triduum Cards now on sale in the Parish Office €3 each or 4 for €10

First Friday Novena to the Sacred Heart & Devine Mercy chaplet: Friday 2nd Dec.
First Saturday Devotions to our Lady of Fatima: 3rd Dec at 9am in Headford Church Mass, Talk & Adoration for Diocesan adorers finish at 12.30pm.

Children's Prayer for Advent

My little Lord Jesus, I love you
and thank you for this Advent season.
Please help me to understand all that you have done for me.
Your loving mother held you in her heart and brought you into this world.
Help me to do the same.
My loving Jesus, I choose you, this advent, as my King and my God.
Draw me close to you, and help me to see my sins, so that I can change the things that you want me to change.
Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do.
You said "yes" to all that God asked of you.
Please pray for me that I may do the same.
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,
Come Lord Jesus, Come!
I love you, Jesus. Amen.

Parish of Killursa & Killower

26th & 27th November First Sunday of Advent
First Week 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/headford, churchtv.ie/claran

Mass Intentions for Headford

Sat 26th	**7.00pm**	Ger Concannon, Anniv. Paul & Sheila Mannnion, Logawania, Anniv Bridie Lee, Culleen, Anniv. Frank & Peggy Lee, Culleen, Anniv
Sun 27th	**11:30am**	Jack McDonagh, Crosswood, Anniv Thomas & Mary Nohilly, Cordara Anniv. & the decd. members of the Nohilly & Lydon Families, Cordara The decd. of the Hynes and Sweeney Families. Mick & Rita Dooley, Anniv. Michael Murphy, Rockhill, Anniv.
Mon 28st	**10.00am**	Private Intention
Fri 2nd	**10.00am**	Private Intention
Sat 3rd	**10.00am** **7:00pm**	James & Ann Fitzgibbon, Main Street Damien Walshe, Keekill, 6th Anniversary Delia Rabbitte, Ellen Fahy & Tom Fahy, Thanks Giving Mass
Sun 4th	**11:30am**	Padraic Halloran, Ballycolgan, 1st Anniversary Margaret O'Flaherty RIP Maura O'Connell (nee Walsh) USA & Formally Millpark, Claran RIP Private Intention

Mass Intentions for Claran

Sun 27th	**10.00am**	Fr. Tom Kyne & All the decd. of the Kyne Family RIP Maura O'Connell (nee Walsh) RIP, USA & formally Millpark, Claran Michael, Nora Molloy & their son Toddy
Tue 29th	**9.30am**	Private Intention
Wed 30th	**9:30am**	Private Intention
Sun 4th	**10.00am**	Thomas Murphy, Kilbeg, 2nd Anniversary Thomas & Rita Creaven, Clydagh & all the decd. of the family Helen (Nellie) O'Toole 9th Anniversary & Bernadette Devlin

Feast Days this week: Wed 30th St Andrew, Apostle, Thurs 1st Bl. Charles de Foucauld, World Aids Day, Fri 2nd World Day for Abolition of Slavery, Sat 3rd St. Francis Xavier, Patron of Missions

25 Card Drive in Cloughanover Community Centre on Sunday 27th November at 7pm in aid of Headford/Claran Senior Citizens Christmas Party and Claran ICA. Tickets €5.00. Your support would be much appreciated



Advent is a time of expectation and preparation for the birth of Our Lord. The word **ADVENT** comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.
Advent has a changing start date, but it always contains four Sundays. It starts on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew, which we celebrate on 30th Nov. **Advent** marks the beginning of the church's year, which is called the *Liturgical year*. Christs birth in the stable in Bethlehem marks the beginning of our faith. The Liturgical year ends on the Feast of Christ the King.

The Avent season has two meanings: It is a time of celebration of Christ coming into our world as a baby in Bethlehem, and it reminds us of the second coming when the Lord will return again. **Advent** blends together a penitential theme of preparation, very similar to Lent and a joyful theme of getting ready for Christmas.
Traditional colour of Advent is purple/violet, which symbolises the penance spirit. Hope is the predominant theme of **Advent**. The Israelites hoped for a Messiah to come. We are hopeful that Christ will come again.
The Advent Jesse Tree consists of symbols of the Messiah coming from the line of Jesse. Isaiah and John the Baptist are two prophets most associated with **Advent**. **Advent** focuses on light --- the symbolism of the **Advent Wreath** shows how pagan people looked forward to the return of the sun to their lives.

Bambinelli Sunday, Blessing of Christ Child takes place on the **3rd Sunday of Avent Dec 11th**. The blessing of "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.

Can anybody that is interested in quoting for the installation of window's and doors in the church office, please request details and information from info@newelleng.ie before the 9th December 2022.

Church Gate Collection: Solas Family Resource Centre will hold their Annual Church Gate Collection in Headford/Claran this weekend 26th & 27th Nov. Your support will be much appreciated.

Headford Dementia Café will hold a Christmas party, Monday 5th Dec, 11-12:30 in Headford Parish Hall. We will have local musicians performing, tea/coffee, mince pies and Christmas carols. All welcome

The Galway Hospice Tree of Lights Celebration takes place at Galway Hospice, Sunday, 4th December at 5pm for the first time since 2019. To sponsor a light on the Galway Memorial Tree, visit www.galwayhospice.ie/lights, or call 091-770868.

Claran National School 'Christmas Concert' Wed 7th & Thus 8th Dec. @ 6.30pm. All are welcome. If you wish to purchase tickets please contact Yvonne in the office anytime between 9am - 1.20pm daily; 093 35922 / office@clarannationalschool.ie.

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 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.

What does the Advent Wreath mean?
Usually, the Advent Wreath is made with 5 Candles, 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white, with the 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 the 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. The 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 Avent 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 Avent.

Week 1: Light ONE Purple Candle
Week 2: Light TWO Purple Candles
Week 3: Light Two Purple Candles and One Pink Candle
Week 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.



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.

St Vincent de Paul: Please help our local conference by donating to www.svp.ie/stfursaheadford

Pilgrimages 2023: Fatima: May 11th 2023 7 nights ex Dublin (reduction if paid before Dec 5th) Contact John B 093 28337 or Call 01 2410800

Medjugorje & Cavtat: June 28th 7 nights (4+3), ex Dublin with transport arranged from Claremorris (reduction if paid before Dec 5th). Contact John B 093 28337 or call 01 2410800

Corofin Medjugorje Pilgrimage 24th – 31st May 2023. Spiritual director Fr Ciaran Blake. Lead by Dymphna Glynn. Booking available now. Call Dymphna 085 8197155 or Marian pilgrimages on 01 878 8159.

Headford Bridge Club invites all Bridge players to join their club at Angler's Rest Hotel every Tuesday at 7.15 p.m. for a fun and social event. Contact Ann at 0876007624. Would you like to learn? Then contact Marlene O'Connor, a wonderful Bridge teacher at 0871335830

Senior Citizens Christmas Party: Claran ICA propose to host the Senior Citizens Christmas Party again this year in Claran Community Centre on 11th December 2022. In order to do this in a safe, post Covid environment, we need to know numbers of those interested in attending as places may need to be limited. Please contact either Ann on 087-9674744, Norah on 087-2507407 or Mary on 087-9444746 before 6th November, to book your place.

Safe Guarding and Diocesan Vetting is up for renewal for the Parish, would everybody that this would effect please take a renewal form, complete and return to office. Thank you

Meals4Health Galway: Delivers Freshly Cooked Meals to your door suited to the specific dietary requirements of the older person. Phone 091354000 for more information or visit www.meals4health.ie

Dates for First Holy Communion:
Cloughanover N.S. –Headford – Sat. 29th April 2023 at 11.30am
Headford N.S. – St. Mary's Headford – Sat. 6th May 2023 at 11.30am
Claran N.S. - Claran – Saturday 13th May 2023at 11.30pm

Weekly Offertory Contribution: Should anyone wish to set up for a weekly/monthly direct debit, or bank transfer, instead of receiving the offertory box please contact the office and let us know, this will help us save on the cost of printing when we are ordering the boxes in the next few weeks

Baptism: With Covid restrictions lifted Baptism's will now be on a shared basis. Baptism's take place on the first Sunday and third Saturday of each month

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 – 2.00pm**

Headford Adult Learning Centre: Abbey House, Unit 2, Main St, Headford, Co. Galway. Classes available in the following for beginners to level 3: Computers, iPads, and Smart Phone, Music Appreciation, Book Club, Communications, Digital Media, Climate Justice, Career Preparation. English for Speakers of Other Languages. Also help with Reading Writing and Spelling. Phone 093 34746, 093 26609 or call in to the Centre.

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. Also Please note that mass times can change at any time so it is advisable to watch out for the newsletter weekly.

Cycling Club: Would you like to join a cycling club and head off on a leisurely cycle, meet here in Headford, everybody is welcome please contact Carmel O'Malley for further details on 0863767063

Meals4Health Galway Delivers Freshly Cooked Meals to your door. Supporting Independent living for longer in the comfort of your home. Special and modified dietary requirements catered for also. Phone 091354000 for more information or visit www.meals4health.ie

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.

Additional Tús Places There are currently vacancies in a variety of Tús roles in the local area. Tús is a community work placement for those 12 months or more unemployed and in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance, with participants receiving a top-up payment. Completion of the scheme provides employers with evidence of work experience, a reference, and a CV. If you are interested, phone 091 875732 or 087 9335477, or email tusadmin@grd.ie.

Mass Cards: Are 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.

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.

Chime : Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Outreach at Tuam Primary Care centre. Contact Tony Dolan for more information or an appointment 086 83413

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

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.

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

iDonate
Making Giving Easier

Bereavement Support: Losing a loved one is always a difficult experience. During Covid many support services were missing but from February 2nd, the weekly Bereavement Support Group will resume every Wednesday morning at 11am in the Family Centre at Knock Shrine. These meetings aim to help those who are grieving to find healing, hope and comfort. All are welcome. Further information from Monica Morley on 094-9375320.

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

Welcoming a return to full public worship Bishops stated, "As the remaining Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, it is encouraging to see a return to full public worship in our parishes, and the resumption of all aspects of Church and community life. At the heart of the life of our parish communities is the Sunday Mass. When we gather for the Eucharist on the Lord's Day, we do so to express our joy in the Risen Lord and to unite with our brothers and sisters in the Church in thanksgiving and praise to God. This is a communal celebration which shapes us as a community of faith, life and charity." We pray in the Mass that it is 'indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation' to give thanks to the Lord, and the Sunday Eucharist is our greatest act of thanksgiving. During the Season of Lent, we encourage everyone to return to Sunday and weekday Mass in our churches, welcoming each other back as we gather once more together. From Easter Sunday, 17 April, this will once again be deemed an essential expression of faith for all in our Church in Ireland. As always, those whose health is vulnerable or who are unwell will not be under any obligation to attend Mass, and should keep themselves safe and pray at home until they are better. "In the coming days and weeks parishes will continue to gradually lift the restrictions and mitigations which were introduced during the pandemic. We should however remain sensitive and respectful (by way of responsible social distancing and optional wearing of masks) towards those who may still feel vulnerable or anxious. For example, it is good especially in these troubled times, to invite people at the 'Sign of Peace' to make a gesture or greeting of peace to the people around them, rather than the traditional handshake. "We remain grateful to all those who risked their lives and made sacrifices in hospitals and other settings to keep us safe during the pandemic. We appreciate the commitment of priests who continued to minister the sacraments to the best of their ability, notwithstanding the risk this posed to their own life and health. In doing so, priests gave powerful witness to the faith. We also give thanks for the many people in our parishes who worked so hard to maintain our worship and parish life in the safest way possible. We keep in our prayers all who have been impacted in any way during the pandemic, especially the bereaved. As civil commemorations are planned in Ireland for the weekend of the 18 – 20 March, with a National Day of Remembrance and Reflection on Sunday 20 March, we invite all in our parish communities to unite in spirit and in prayerful reflection."

We welcome more people into our Church. 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 can be worn if you like. 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.

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.

Moveable Feasts in 2022/23

	2022	2023
Ash Wednesday	**2nd March**	**22nd February**
Good Friday	**15th April**	**7th April**
Easter Sunday	**17th April**	**9th April**
Ascension	**29th May**	**21st May**
Pentecost	**5th June**	**28th May**
Trinity	**12th June**	**4th June**
Corpus Christi	**19th June**	**11th June**
First Sunday of Advent	**27th November**	**3rd December**

Offertory Envelopes for the coming year are being prepared at present. If you are not receiving a box and would like to, please contact the parish office. When the boxes are ready to be distributed I would appreciate if someone from each village/station area would volunteer to deliver to their area as the boxes cannot be left in the churches outside of mass times. Areas divided as follows:
Carnakib, Knocklahard, Annakeen, Carnacrow, Clydagh/Logawania, Kilbeg, Carrowbeg, Claran, Owerbeg, Owermore, Ower, Cloonkeely, Rinnanock, Inchquin, Greenfileds, Slieveroe, Curramore, Carheens, Headford Town, Castleview, Galway Rd, Meadow Hill, Eallagh Est, Cordarra, Cong Rd, Culleen Corsssnaun, Farren, Ballyconlaught, Liss, Rockhill, Cloneen, Farren, Ballyconlaught, Liss, Rockhill, Cloneen, Windfort, Keernaun, Mountross, Rafee, Ross, Eallagh, Oaklands, Lettera, Crosswood, Keelcoil, Cahermanally, Clouhganover, Ballyhale.

Bank Transfer: If you would prefer to donate weekly online please see Bank details below. Please put your name/box number in the reference section and contact the office to let Sharon know you will not need a box.

Bank details are as follows: **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