Mass Times may need to be changed at short notice.

Confessions: By appointment.

Parish Office Hours 10am to **2pm** Monday – Friday.

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**, please phone the office if you would like to be included in the list 35448.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mon. 9.15 am – 11am & 7-8pm Tues 7-8pm St. Mary's Church Headford
Tue 10-11am
Weds 10am-11am and Thurs 6pm-7pm St. Marys Church Claran

Adoration Every Friday 3-4pm with Divine Mercy and Stations of the Cross. St. Mary's Church Headford. Also available on churchtv.ie & Facebook

Offertory Collection: in **Headford €1019** last weekend and in **Claran €680. Thank you.**

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

Altar Candle Intentions for December: Headford Teresa & Paddy Joyce, Ballyhale, Paddy & Phil Ryder. **Claran** Carmel O'Toole & Family, Claran, Massie O'G & Family

Ministers for December Headford Readers: **Sat 7pm** Pat Duddy **Sun 11.30am** John McHugh

Ministers of the Eucharist: **Sat. 7pm** Geraldine Hannon **Sun 11.30am** John McHugh

Baskets: Sat 7pm Declan McDonagh, Mary Fahy **Sun 11.30am** Redmond Newell, Bridget Hynes.

Minsters for December Claran Readers: Sun 10am: Helena Hastings **Ministers of the Eucharist: Sun 10am:** May Kenny, Tom D'Arcy

As a Parish Community *we offer our sincere sympathy to the family, relatives & friends of Sr. Teresa Lee, Presentation Sister of Matlock, Derbyshire & Oliver Prendergast, Claremorris & Bernie Biggins, Bridge St. Headford. May they rest in peace.*



The Fourth Week of Advent: our final days of preparation before Christmas, we ask Christ to forgive us our sins and through his grace to create anew when He comes. This week is also a time to reflect on our Advent journey. The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14)

Feast Days: Mon 25th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, Tues 26th St. Stephen, The First Martyr, **Wed 27th** St. John, **Thurs 28th** The Holy Innocents, **Fri 29th** St. Thomas Becket, **Sat 30th** St. Egwin

Parish of Killursa & Killower



23rd & 24th December 2023 Fourth 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/headford, churchtv.ie/claran

Mass Intentions for St. Mary's Church, Headford

Sat 23rd	**7.00pm**	The decd. of the Hoverty Family, Headford Patrick & Margaret Kyne, Ross & decd. members of the Kyne Family. Nellie & Gabriel Joyce, Mountross, RIP
Sun 24th	**11.30am** **9.00pm**	The People of the Parish Jamie Costello, RIP **Christmas Eve (Vigil)** Annie Kearns Anniversary & the decd. of the Kearns family, St. Mary's Road
Mon 25th	**8.30am** **11.30am**	Special Intention Margaret O'Brien Anniversary Jackie Steed & the decd. members of the family
Fri 29th	**10.00am**	Julia Connell, Killbeg
Sat 30th	**10.00am** **7.00pm**	Nestor Cruz Anniversary Shirley & Harry Brennan, RIP John Monaghan, Salthill, Anniversary
Sun 31st	**11.30am**	May Corbett, Main St. 9th Anniversary Micheál Forde, Keernaun, Anniversary

Mass Intentions for Claran, St. Marys Church, Claran

Sun 24th	**10.00am** **7.00pm**	Mons. Micheál Thornton, RIP **Christmas Eve (Vigil)** Victoria Kubaczyk, RIP
Mon 25th	**10.00am**	Sean Daveron, Anniv. Inchaquinn Mary Alice McMorrow, RIP Vera Murphy, Myrehill, 20th Anniversary
Tues 26th	**9.30am**	Coleman & Kathleen Lombard, Anniversary
Wed 27th	**9.30am**	Roddy Greaney, Ballyhale Henry & Helen Conneely, RIP
Sun 31st	**10.00am**	Margaret & Michael Lee, Carnakib, Anniversary Jack Lombard Anniversary The decd. members of the Joyce & Holleran Families.

Parish Childrens Choir: is being set up in the New Year, more information to follow, anyone who would like to be involved please contact the parish office 93 35448 or info@headfordchurch.com

Christmas Dues: which go towards the priests of the parish will be collected at all masses on Christmas Eve/Day. There are spare envelopes at the back of the church for those who do not have an offertory box. Thank you for your continued support.

50/50 Fundraising draw: Congratulations to Deirdre Van Der Zee who won the December prize pot of €305 in the Kilcoona NS PA 50/50 draw! Next draw 12th Jan. Tickets at Lottoraiser.ie/Kilcoona NS. Be in it to win it! Thank you for all your support.

Offertory Envelopes for the coming year can be collected from the front of the Church after each mass. If you cannot find your box or are not receiving one and would like to please contact the parish office. For those who would like to donate weekly/monthly, please see Bank details below. Please put your name or box number in the reference section and contact the office to let Sharon know that you will not need a new box of envelopes for 2024.
Bank details are as follows: **A/c Name: Headford Church**: BIC BOFIIE2D IBAN Details IE27 BOFI 9038 7528 9740 34
A/c Name: Claran Church: BIC BOFIIE2D IBAN Details IE62 BOFI 9038 7528 9727 25.
You can also contribute online by going to Churchtv.ie/Headford and the same for Claran Church.

Church Gate Collections: Anyone looking to organise a church gate collection must organise a permit with An Garda Síochána and notify the parish office in advance.

First Friday Novena to the Sacred Heart & Divine Mercy Chaplet: *Friday 5th of January 2024. 9-10am Headford Church. Followed by Mass.*

First Saturday Devotions to our Lady of Fatima: *9-10am Headford Church 6th of January 2024. Rosary & Fatima Prayers followed by Mass.*

The Origin of the Christmas Crib: To celebrate the birth of Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi decided to make it 'real' for his people and his friars who lived in the hills around the hermitage at Greccio where he lived. With his friends he succeeded in re-creating the first crib scene in a cave surrounded by candles, he celebrated mass at the crib and brought the Christmas story to life. After his death the custom of having a crib spread throughout Europe.

Christmas Eve Prayer at the crib: God our Father, tonight we place the baby Jesus in our crib. Bless us this Christmas night.

Coill na nÓg, Claran Community Childcare will reopen on **Tuesday January the 2nd 2024.** Claran Community Childcare provides a Full Day Care service for 51 weeks per year from 7.45am – 6pm daily. Please contact 087 6903212 or email clarancommunitychildcare@gmail.com for more information. Pre-school open day is Saturday Feb 10th between 10am and 12 noon.

Malta Pilgrimage 2024: 'In the Footsteps of St Paul' Pilgrimage to Malta; from Tuam Archdiocese; 7 nights; June 26th to July, 3rd; ex Dublin; with a Spiritual Director. Contact 01 2410800 for details and bookings.

Archdiocese of Tuam, Pilgrimage to Fatima: with Spiritual Director; May 9th to 16th 2024; 7 nights; ex Dublin; discount for early bookings. Contact 012410800.

Footsteps Preschool Ltd. Headford, Knockroon & Glencorrib: Please book your child's place asap as places are extremely limited for the coming school year 2024.Contact Edel on 0876906462.

Headford Badminton Club is coming back to PCH Gym. Monday nights. New and returning player's welcome. Further information from Ezra 087 3355828 or Helen 086 2441006

Cloughanover Community Centre: The weekly game of 25 is back every Tuesday night in Cloughanover Community centre at 8.30pm.

Light a candle online: for those who are watching online, you can now light a candle on Churchtv.ie/Headford, anytime of the day or night.

Church Gate Collections: Anyone looking to organise a church gate collection must organise a permit with An Garda Síochána and notify the parish office in advance.

Family Support Drop-in Clinic: Solas Family Resource Centre in conjunction with Tusla and Foroige are offering a Family Support Community Drop-In Clinic on the first Wednesday of every month. Contact John on 093-36446 or Eamonn on 086-1713384 for more information.

Many Thanks to all who have sent in donations of Postage Stamps. These donations are forwarded on to Sr. Maria in the Mission Centre Dublin and help support the Missions in East Timor, Cuba and Indonesia.

The Diocese of Elphin wishes to recruit a *Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry*. The role is to foster existing initiatives in youth and young adult ministry, and to work towards building the relationships which will lead to fresh initiatives in centres of population throughout the Diocese of Elphin. Closing date is Monday 16th October 2023 at 5pm. For more information go to www.elphindiocese.ie

Holy Water: If anyone 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.

Western Alzheimer's: Can you spare a couple of hours per week? A little time goes along way. Become a Befriender to those living with Dementia. Full Training Provided Contact Caroline on 087-3694477 or 0949364900 Email: Volunteer@westernalzheimers.ie.

Galway Centre for Independent Living – GCIL CE Community Employment Scheme. Urgently looking for Admin and Minibus Drivers Must be eligible for Community Employment Scheme gov.ie - Community Employment Programme (www.gov.ie) Accredited training will be provided. Hours per week = 19.5, Candidates must have either a full B or D Driving licence for Driver positions. Garda Vetting will be required for these positions. Apply with CV to Supervisor@gcilce.ie

Knock Youth Leadership Programme aims to provide participants with the skills and knowledge to volunteer/work within their Parish to provide a fun and safe space for young people to gather and explore their faith. Participants will receive two certificates on completion of the programme - A certificate in Youth Ministry (accredited by Queens University), and a certificate in Youth work/Youth Ministry Skills (accredited by The Open College, NI). This programme is free of charge and starting on September 30th. If you are interested in participating, please contact Knock Youth Ministry on youthministry@knockshrine.ie or call 09493753231.

HopeSpace - a free support service for children and young people in Galway city and county who have been bereaved has opened recently. You can contact HopeSpace by phone at 091 342566, by email support@hopespace.ie or through the website at www.hopespace.ie. HopeSpace is only the second such service in Ireland (there is already a children's grief centre in Limerick). Please pass the word on and contact HopeSpace if you have any questions or need help.

Meals4Health - Galway – Delivers Fresh Delicious Affordable Meals to your door suited to the specific dietary requirements of the older person. Supporting Independent living in the comfort of your home Phone 091354000 for more information or visit www.meals4health.ie

Parish Office. You can contact the office 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 able to take card payments over the phone. Office Hours: **Mon to Fri 10.00am – 2.00pm**
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.

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.

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.

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.

Chy3 Charity Donations Scheme: Thanks to all who have returned forms. It's still not too late to sign up. Only requirements are 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.

Moveable Feasts in 2023/24

	2023	2024
Ash Wednesday	22nd February	14th Feb
Good Friday	7th April	29th March
Easter Sunday	9th April	31st March
Ascension	21st May	12th May
Pentecost	28th May	19th May
Trinity	4th June	26th May
Corpus Christi	11th June	2nd June
First Sunday of Advent	3rd December	1st December



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.

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.