



# ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOUR OF

## *St. Maria Goretti*

**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, COLLOONEY**

**JUNE 28 - JULY 6 2026**

### *Maria Goretti: Finding God in Ordinary Lives*

Rosary each evening at 7.30 pm followed by Mass at 8.00 pm

Confessions available before each Mass (7.30 pm - 7.50 pm)

Blessing with Relics of St. Maria Goretti will also take place during the Novena

**Sunday, June 28th - Fr. Michael Gilroy**  
Parish Priest of Templeboy and Skreen & Dromard

**Monday, June 29th - Fr. Tomas Surlis**  
Rector of the Seminary, St. Patrck's College, Maynooth

**Tuesday, June 30th - John Pridemore**  
Former London Gangster turned Catholic Evangelist & Author

**Wednesday, July 1st - Fr. Chris Garrett**  
Adm. Sligo Cathedral & former Professor of Oncology, Univ. of Texas

**Thursday, July 2nd - Teresa Talbot**  
National Co-ordinator of Little Way Healing Ministries

**Friday, July 3rd - Teresa O'Malley**  
News Editor - Mid West Radio

**Saturday, July 4th - Sarah Kelly**  
Fulltime Carer - Ballaghaderreen

**Sunday, July 5th - Eddie Stones**  
Healing Ministry - Emmanuel House of Providence, Clonfert

**Monday, July 6th - Fr. Christopher Clarke**  
Prior of the Carmelite Monastery, Loughrea



**Church of the Assumption, Lower Main Street, Collooney, Co. Sligo F91 CK24**

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**St. Maria Goretti** (October 16<sup>th</sup> 1890 – July 6<sup>th</sup> 1902)

**Our Theme this Year – *Maria Goretti : Finding God in Ordinary Lives***

This year our Novena invites us to reflect on how God is discovered, not only in extraordinary moments, but also in the quiet faithfulness of ordinary lives. In a world that often overlooks the small and unseen, Maria's life reminds us that holiness grows through simple choices made every day – choices of love, trust and courage. As we pray this Novena, we are encouraged to open our hearts to God's presence in our own daily routines, relationships and struggles, discovering that grace is at work, even in the most ordinary of moments.

**Our Guest Speakers 2026** (in alphabetical order)

**Fr Christopher Clarke, OCD** is a priest and friar of the Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD) and is Prior at *The Abbey*, Loughrea, Co. Galway - a Carmelite monastery with a longstanding pastoral presence in the town. He previously served as Prior of the Carmelite community at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Simon, Stock Church, Kensington, London, where he was part of a team of Carmelite priests ministering in the parish.

**Fr. Chris Garrett** is the Administrator of Sligo Cathedral. A native of San Francisco, he was ordained to the priesthood in 2023. Fr. Garrett, was a highly regarded oncologist before entering the priesthood. Although born and raised in the US, his links with Ireland remained very strong throughout his life. He completed his secondary school studies at St Andrew's College, Booterstown, and his university education at U.C.D. where he studied medicine. In 1991, he left Ireland to train in oncology in the United States, eventually becoming Professor of Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre (Houston, Texas). In 2012 he earned a licentiate in bioethics from the *Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum* (Rome).

**Fr. Michael Gilroy** is Parish Priest of Templeboy and Skreen / Dromard. He holds a doctorate in Theology and is Director of the *Newman Institute* in Ballina. Under his supervision, the Institute offers many courses on topics as diverse as Pastoral Leadership, Liturgy, Canon Law, Sacred Music, Moral Theology, Church History, Bereavement Counselling and Scripture. In recent times Fr. Gilroy gained national recognition and acclaim for the Institute's two year programme of training lay parish leaders.

**Sarah Kelly** is a native of Ballaghaderreen in Co. Roscommon and is a full-time carer. She has worked in Dublin and Galway in Catholic media, evangelisation, youth ministry, music ministry and administration. She holds both a Bachelor's & a Master's Degree in Theology and has been involved in Youth Retreat Facilitation, Youth Work and Youth Ministry. She loves music and singing. She is the youngest of five. Currently she is her mother's full time carer, and has faced her own numerous health challenges and setbacks. She loves God and her Catholic faith, and is engaged in various parish ministries. She is also deeply involved with promoting Eucharistic Adoration at both parish and diocesan level.

**Teresa O'Malley** is a broadcast journalist who serves as Head of News with Midwest Radio (MWR). Here she is a leading voice in regional journalism across the west of Ireland. In her role, she oversees news coverage and regularly presents and reports on local, national, and international issues, contributing to programmes such as *Morning Edition* and *Lunchtime News*. She is also a frequent contributor to national media discussions, including appearances on radio programmes examining current affairs and regional perspectives.

**John Pridmore** was born in London. He is an author and speaker, best known for his transformation from a former London gangster to a prominent Catholic evangelist. After spending time in prison and experiencing a profound personal change, he dedicated his life to spreading messages of faith, hope, and redemption. Pridmore has shared his story internationally, inspiring audiences through talks, books and charitable works.

**Eddie Stones** is a well-known Irish lay Catholic and healing minister based in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Over the years, he has become recognised for his dedication to prayer and spiritual guidance, often leading retreats and healing services across Ireland. Eddie's commitment to faith and community has inspired many to seek deeper spiritual connections. His biography reflects a life devoted to service, compassion and fostering hope.

**Fr. Tomas Surlis** is a native of Tubbercurry and is a regular speaker at our Novena. He is a former President of St. Nathy's College in Ballaghaderreen and is now Rector of the National Seminary in Maynooth.

**Teresa Talbot** is a native of Co. Roscommon. She is national co-ordinator of *Littleway Healing Ministries*, a ministry that prays with people for the healing of memories. She began her career as a journalist and author and now works full-time in administration. She is currently completing training in spiritual accompaniment in the Carmelite tradition.