

# BIRR PARISH

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*Priest on Duty - Please call Parish Mobile - 086 3531955*

Fr. Tom Hogan—057-9121757  
Fr. Michael Reddan—057-9120098  
Fr. Pat Gilbert—057-9120098  
Fr. Antony Sajeesh - 057-9120098  
Fr. Kieran Blake, Kilcolman - 057-9120812  
Fr. Michael O’Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021

**Brendan Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times**

*St. Brendan’s, Birr* - Saturday 7.30 p.m.,  
Sunday 8.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon  
*Church of the Annunciation, Carrig* -  
Sunday 9.30 a.m.  
*St. Colman’s, Kilcolman* - Sunday 11.00 a.m.  
*St. Ita’s, Coolderry* - Saturday 8.00 p.m.  
*St. John’s, Ballybritt* - Sunday 9.30 a.m.  
*St. Mary’s, Shinrone* - Sunday 11.00 a.m.  
*St. Patrick’s, The Pike* - Saturday 6.45 p.m.  
*St. Finian Cam, Longford* - Sunday 9.30 a.m.  
*St. Flannan’s, Kinnitty* - Sunday 11.30 a.m.  
*St. Molua’s, Roscomroe* - Sunday 10.30 a.m.  
*St. Lugna’s, Cadamstown* - Saturday 8.00 p.m.

**Birr Library - Easter Story-time** (*a Spring into Story-time event*): Wednesday, April 17th: 11.30am. Special free story-time event with a Springtime and Easter theme. For U-8s. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Birr Historical Society:** Mon. 15 April Dr. Cecil Farrar (native of Birr), will speak on tower houses and in particular his restoration of Grantstown Castle, in The County Arms Hotel, at 8.00 p.m. All welcome, non members €5.

**Age Action** is running FREE beginner computer classes for over 55’s in Birr Library starting in June 2019 and are currently seeking **volunteer tutors**. Full tutor training provided. For more information contact Age Action on: **086-4136547** or by email to [gettingstarted@ageaction.ie](mailto:gettingstarted@ageaction.ie)

**Midland Living Links** - Coffee morning in Conference Room at the rear of St. Brendan’s Church after 10.00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday 16th April.

**Birr Garden Club** - outing to National Botanic Garden at Kilmacuragh on Thursday 16th May. If you are interested please leave your name at Pat Guinan’s shoe shop or with any member of the club.

**Birr Daffodil Day** - Thanks to all who supported and volunteered for Daffodil Day 2019. A total of €12,119 was raised for the Irish Cancer Society. Your support is very much appreciated.

**Birr Festival of Music** - Community Sing Night on Wednesday 17th April - 7.30-9.00 in Birr Theatre & Arts Centre. For EVERYONE who likes to sing, age 18+. An exhilarating evening of singing together no previous experience necessary, all are welcome to come and join in. Free event.

**Birr Tidy Towns - Easter Eggstravaganza** on Mill Island, Birr on Easter Saturday at 2.30 p.m. €5 per family. All are welcome.

Remembered in Mass this Week				
Sat 13th	7.30 p.m.	Michael Caffrey (MM) Baby Sheila Cash (MM) Anne Taylor (1st Ann) Noel Cooke, The Terrace, Crinkill (1st Ann)		
		Peter Judge (1st Ann) Jack O’Keeffe		
Sun 14th	12 noon	Yvonne Howley (MM) Bridie Smyth Sonny Carter		
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Mary Peters (1st Ann) Mamie Gleeson		
Tues 16th	10.00 a.m.	People of the Parish		
Wed 17th	10.00 a.m.	Jimmy Fitzpatrick		
Sun 21st	10.30 a.m.	Johnny Kennedy & baby son John Wall family, Clonoghill		
	12 noon	Easter Mass Bouquet Intentions		
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Easter Mass Bouquet Intentions		

**Please Pray for the Souls of**

Siobhán Colleran, Tralee,  
sister of Tony Dargan, Carrig,  
Maureen Cahir, Roscrea,  
mother of Niall, Connaught Street,  
Mary O’Meara, Kilbarron,  
mother of Ann Milne, Hillside,  
Sheila Loughnane, Thurles,  
mother of June Carroll, Hillside,  
Mary Anne O’Neill, Carraroe,  
sister of Colette O’Brien, Elm Park,  
Betsy Heffernan, Dualla, Cashel.

**Annual Killaloe Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine** will take place on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**. Led by Bishop Fintan Monahan. 2:30 p.m. – Anointing of the Sick - 3:00 p.m. – Concelebrated Mass. **Knock is Celebrating 140 years this year 1879-2019.**

**PILGRIMAGE TO Fatima, Lisbon, Cascais & Sintra – 8 – 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.** Afternoon flights from Dublin €935. Includes return flights (Dub – Lisbon) 4 nights half board in Es-toril **on the sea**, two nights full board in Fatima, coaches, 20K baggage included, full religious programme. Spiritual Director Fr. Tom Hannon. Contact **Mary 087 1247 669**.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 25<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June:** The pil-grimage would welcome the assistance of Nurses who would like to volunteer assisted pilgrims on this year’s Diocesan pilgrimage for five days in June. If any nurse is interested please contact Michael on 086-3813677.

**Pilgrimage to San Giovanni and Assisi 11 - 18 September 2019** (Tom Cooney Padre Pio Prayer Group) 8 days from Dublin €995 pps all inclusive. Spiritual Director Fr James Grace. For more information contact Bernie Moloney at 085 707 6614 (evenings) or 087 693 4427 (day-time).

*Sponsored By*

**Campbell’s** Hackney Service

Contact **Michael** on 087-2618507 or 057-9120407

Woodland Park, Birr

# Holy Week

Our **Service of Reconciliation** for Lent and East-er will take place on this Monday at 7.30pm in St Brendan's, Birr. Fr Tom Hannon will lead our re-flections on the night and all are welcome to come and share these moments of reflection, healing and reconciliation. A number of priests will be available for the Sacrament.

**Chrism Mass:** This Diocesan Mass will take place on Spy Wednesday **17<sup>th</sup> April evening at 7.30pm** in the Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul En-nis. All parishes are invited to celebrate this Mass with Bishop Fintan in which the Holy Oils used in sacraments will be blessed and priests and bish-ops will renew their priestly commitment.

## Easter Ceremonies

**Holy Thursday**

Carrig  
Birr

Morning Prayer 10.00 a.m.  
Our Lord’s Supper 7.30 p.m.  
Our Lord’s Supper 8.00 p.m.  
Exposition 10.00 p.m.  
Night Prayer 10.00 p.m.

**Good Friday**

Birr  
Birr  
Carrig

Morning Prayer 10.00 a.m.  
Stations of the Cross 12 noon  
Passion of Our Lord 3.00 p.m.  
Passion of Our Lord 7.30 p.m.

**Holy Saturday**

Birr

Morning Prayer  
& Blessing of Food 10.00 a.m.  
Reconciliation 10.30 – 12 noon  
& 2pm – 4pm  
Easter Vigil 9.00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday**

Dawn Mass 6.00 a.m.  
in Garden of Tranquility  
Normal Sunday Mass Times

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**Divine Mercy Sunday** - April 28th. Chaplet at 2.45 p.m. followed by Mass at 3.00 p.m. All wel-come.

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**Easter Mass Bouquets** now available from the Parish Office. Suggested donation €5.

**Basket Fund Collection Last Sunday - €1,875**  
**Many Thanks.**  
**Parish Fund Collectors - April 21st**  
M. Gibbons & C. Loughnane

The **Priests’ Easter Collection** envelopes will be taken up at all masses this weekend. Sincere thanks for your generosity to this collection. It is very much appreciated.

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**Ministry of Reader** - any Confirmed Parishioner is eligible to read in Church. If you wish to join the Weekend 'Readers' Rota', in St. Brendan's Church, please leave your name, contact details and choice of Mass to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

**Sr. Eileen’s Cúinne**

**Domhnach na Pailme /Domhnach na Páise**  
Cuireann Domhnach na Pailme tús leis an tSeachtain Mhór san Eaglais mar atá Domhnach na Pailme, Céadaoin an Bhraith, Déardaoin Mandála, Aoine an Chéasta agus an Satharn Naofa. Le linn na seachtaine seo, tugtar cuireadh dúinn ár gcroí agus ár n-intinn a oscailt agus fáilte a chur roimh Chríost inár saol. An Domhnach seo táimid ag díriú ar Pháis ár dTiarna Íosa Críost. I Soiscéal an lae inniu feicimid Íosa ar mhuin asail. Tá na sluaite timpeall air á leanúint ar a bhealach go Cathair Iarúsailéim.Bhí pailmeacha móra ina lámha acu agus iad ag screadach, ag béiceadh agus ag canadh "Is beannaithe an té atá ag teacht in ainm an Tiarna. Hósanna sna hArda”. Is mar sin a léirigh siad ómós Dó. Theastaigh ón slua rí a dhéanamh de. A mhalairt ar fad a bheadh le cloisteáil roimh dheireadh na seachtaine nuair a bheadh an daoscarshlua ag béiceadh, ‘Céastar É’. ‘Céastar É’. Ghlac Íosa ár gcuid peacaí air féin sa Pháis agus léirigh Sé a ghrá dúinn ar Chalvarie. . Is féidir an phaidir seo a rá i rith na Seachtaine Móire:  
**Le Bás na Croise cheannaigh tú sliocht mífhortúnach Eabha. Ó shin anuas is beannaithe an comhartha seo dár naomhú. Áiméan.**  
**(Ár bPaidreacha Dúchais.)**

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week which includes Spy Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. During this week we are invited to open our hearts and minds and welcome Christ in our lives. This Sunday we focus on the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus is riding a donkey. The crowds around him follow him on his way to Jerusalem. They carried large palms while shouting and singing "Hosanna, Hosanna" In this way they showed him homage.They wanted to make him king .But before the end of the week many were shouting, ‘Crucify Him’. ‘Crucify Him’. Jesus took our sins unto Himself and showed His love for us on Calvary. We can say this prayer during Holy Week:  
**By your Death on the Cross, you redeemed the unfortunate children of Eve. Blessed ever since is the sign of our sanctification. Amen.**

**N:** He replied,  
**J:** If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God.

**N:** Then they all said,  
**C: So you are the Son of God then?**

**N:** He answered,  
**J:** It is you who say I am.

**N:** They said,  
**C: What need of witnesses have we now? We have heard it for ourselves from his own lips.**

**N:** The whole assembly then rose, and they brought him before Pilate. They began their accusation by saying,

**C: We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.**

**N:** Pilate put to him this question,  
**O:** Are you the king of the Jews?

**N:** He replied,  
**J:** It is you who say it.

**N:** Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd,

**O:** I find no case against this man.

**N:** But they persisted,

**C: He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.**

**N:** When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priests and the scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations.

Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day. Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. He said,

**O:** You brought this man before me as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against him. Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.

**N:** But as one man they howled,  
**C: Away with him! Give us Barabbas!**

**N:** This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder. Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back.

**C: Crucify him! Crucify him!**

**N:** And for the third time he spoke to them,  
**O:** Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and let him go.

**N:** But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified, and their shouts were growing louder. Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased. As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

**J:** Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, 'Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!'; to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?

**N:** Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed. When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said,

**J:** Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.

**N:** Then they cast lots to share out his clothing. The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him, saying,

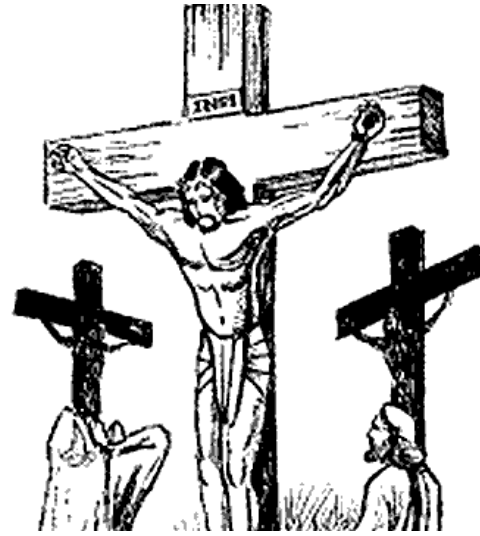
**C: He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.**

**N:** The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said,

**C: If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.**

**N:** Above him there was an inscription: This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him saying,

**O:** Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us as well.



**N:** But the other spoke up and rebuked him,  
**O:** Have you no fear of God at all? You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**N:** He replied,  
**J:** Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise.

**N:** It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said,

**J:** Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.  
**N:** With these words he breathed his last.

**All kneel and pause a moment.**

**N:** When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said,

**O:** This was a great and good man.

**N:** And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts. All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen. Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. He had not consented to what the others had planned and carried out. He came from Arimathaea, a Jewish town, and he lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day and the sabbath was imminent. Meanwhile the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus were following behind. They took note of the tomb and of the position of the body. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. And on the sabbath day they rested, as the law required.

## Palm Sunday

### Birr Parish - Palm Sunday 14th April 2019

GOSPEL Lk 22:14- 23:56  
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

(*N. Narrator; J. Jesus; O. other individual voices; C. the 'crowd' -bold types*)

**N:** When the hour came Jesus took his place at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them,  
**J:** I have longed to eat this passover with you before I suffer; because, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

**N:** Then, taking a cup, he gave thanks and said,

**J:** Take this and share it among you, because from now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the kingdom of God comes.

**N:** Then he took some bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying,

**J:** This is my body which will be given for you; do this as a memorial of me.

**N:** He did the same with the cup after supper, and said,

**J:** This cup is the new covenant in my blood which will be poured out for you. And yet, here with me on the table is the hand of the man who betrays me. The Son of Man does indeed go to his fate even as it has been decreed, but alas for that man by whom he is betrayed!

**N:** And they began to ask one another which of them it could be who was to do this thing. A dispute arose also between them about which should be reckoned the greatest, but he said to them,

**J:** Among pagans it is the kings who lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are given the title Benefactor. This must not happen with you. No; the greatest among you must behave as if he were the youngest, the leader as if he were the one who serves. For who is the greater: the one at table or the one who serves?

The one at table, surely? Yet here I am among you as one who serves! You are the men who have stood by me faithfully in my trials; and now I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father conferred one on me: you will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon! Satan, you must know, has got his wish to sift you all like wheat; but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail, and once you have recovered, you in your turn must strengthen your brothers.

**N:** He answered,

**O:** Lord, I would be ready to go to prison with you, and to death.

**N:** Jesus replied,

**J:** I tell you, Peter, by the time the cock crows today you will have denied three times that you know me.

**N:** He said to them,

**J:** When I sent you out without purse or haversack or sandals, were you short of anything?

**N:** They answered,

**C: No.**

**N:** He said to them,

**J:** But now if you have a purse, take it: if you have a haversack, do the same; if you have no sword, sell your cloak and buy one, because I tell you these words of scripture have to be fulfilled in me: He let himself be taken for a criminal. Yes, what scripture says about me is even now reaching it's fulfilment.

**N:** They said,

**C: Lord, there are two swords here now.**

**N:** He said to them,

**J:** That is enough!

**N:** He then left the upper room to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When they reached the place he said to them,  
**J:** Pray not to be put to the test.

**N:** Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throw away, and knelt down and prayed, saying,

**J:** Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.

**N:** Then an angel appeared to him coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. When he rose from prayer he went to the disciples and found them sleeping for sheer grief. He said to them,  
**J:** Why are you asleep? Get up and pray not to be put to the test.

**N:** He was still speaking when a number of men appeared, and at the head of them the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, who went up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said,  
**J:** Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

**N:** His followers, seeing what was happening, said,

**C: Lord, shall we use our swords?**

**N:** And one of them struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. But at this Jesus spoke,

**J:** Leave off! That will do!

**N:** And touching the man's ear he healed him. Then Jesus spoke to the chief priests and captains of the Temple guard and elders who had come for him. He said,  
**J:** Am I a brigand that you had to set out with swords and clubs? When I was among you in the Temple day after day you never moved to lay hands on me. But this is your hour; this is the reign of darkness.

**N:** They seized him then and led him away, and they took him to the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance. They had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and Peter sat down among them, and as he was sitting there by the blaze a servant-girl saw him, peered at him and said,  
**O:** This person was with him too.

**N:** But he denied it, saying,

**O:** Woman, I do not know him.

**N:** Shortly afterwards, someone else saw him and said,

**O:** You are another of them.

**N:** But Peter replied,

**O:** I am not, my friend.

**N:** About an hour later, another man insisted, saying,

**O:** This fellow was certainly with him. Why, he is a Galilean.

**N:** Peter said,

**O:** My friend, I do not know what you are talking about.

**N:** At that instant, while he was still speaking, the cock crew and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered what the Lord had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will have disowned me three times'. And he went outside and wept bitterly. Meanwhile the men who guarded Jesus were mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying,

**C: Play the prophet. Who hit you then?**

**N:** And they continued heaping insults on him. When day broke there was a meeting of the elders of the people, attended by the chief priests and scribes. He was brought before their council, and they said to him,

**C: If you are the Christ, tell us.**