

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish Mobile: 086 3531955

Website: www.stbrendansbirr.ie

Email: info@stbrendansbirr.ie

Priest on Duty - Please call Parish Mobile - 086 3531955

Parish Office Opening Hours

Monday - Saturday (excluding Wednesday)
9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Fr. Tom Hogan—057-9121757

Fr. Michael Reddan—057-9122470

Fr. Pat Gilbert—057-9122470

Fr. Antony Sajeesh - 057-9122470

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. Mary's, Shinrone - Sunday 11.00 a.m.

St. Patrick's, The Pike - Saturday 6.45 p.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.

- Alternate Sunday

St. Molua's, Roscomroe - Sunday 9.30 a.m.

- Alternate Sunday

St. Finian Cam, Longford - Sunday 9.30 a.m.

St. Flannan's, Kinnitty - Sunday 11.30 a.m.

St. Lugna's, Cadamstown - Saturday 8.00 p.m.

Annual GOAL Mile - Please support the Annual GOAL Mile Birr on Christmas Day at 1pm (sharp) and help those that need it most. GOAL do the most amazing work, delivering humanitarian and development programmes throughout the world. Run, Walk, Support. Enjoy the Mile!

Birr Historical Society - Greg Smith will present archive footage of Birr in the past, in the County Arms Hotel, on Monday 16th December, at 8.00 p.m. This promises to be a most entertaining evening and a very suitable topic for our last meeting in 2019. All are welcome. Non members €5 cover charge.

Birr Art Group Exhibition is now showing in Birr Library until 19th December. Open to all.

Lourdes 2020 - The 64th Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Friday **26th June to Wednesday 1st July**; €725 full board with €20 discount for online booking to: joewalshtours.ie The gift of a Pilgrimage to Lourdes for a family member this Christmas is often the solution for family members wondering what might be a suitable gift for their parents, family member or friend.

FEMPOWER – an intensive eight week training programme empowering women to return to the workforce. Starting in Birr in January 2020, this free programme, delivered by Offaly Local Development Company, aims to upskill women in areas necessary for employment. Topics covered include communication skills, time management, presentation skills, cv and interview preparation and work placement. For more information, or to get your registration form, contact Catherine on 087 280 2919 or Louise on 087 692 5276.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 14th	7.30pm	Padraig Gallagher, John's Mall & USA (MM) Rita Molloy Adelaide O'Donoghue Nevin Family Paddy 'Paudge' O'Meara, Burke's Hill Annie & James Murtagh Sean, Angela & Emmett Ryan Har & Bridget Naylor & son Harry
Sun 15th	8.30 a.m.	Patsy Hanlon Eileen Dashwood
	10.30am	John Hogan, Newbridge Street Anne Mulvey Jimmy & Frances Naughton Michael Hogan & Frances Quinlisk Luke & Judy Nolan Mick & Maura Daly & son Michael
	12 noon	Helen Carroll, Whiteford (1st Ann) Peter Hynes, Castle Gardens Gerry Hoare & son Fintan Ian Smith Tom Feenane, Fortal & sons Morgan & Thomas Eileen Ryan
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Rita O'Brien & grandson Rian Thomas O'Brien
Mon 16th	10.00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Wed 18th	10.00 a.m.	Tony Doran Patrick Kiely Pat Maughan and son Anthony
Thur 19th	10.00 a.m.	Donal Mullins
Fri 20th	10.00 a.m.	Thomas 'Charlie' Brummell
Sat 21st	7.30 p.m.	Lizzy Kelly (MM) Bessie Loughnane (MM) Jody Donoghue & Daly family Mary Tuohey James Quinn
Sun 22nd	10.30 a.m.	Joe Daly (MM) Sheeran family, William Street Aherne & Dunne families, Townsend Street Billy Joyce
	12 noon	John Roe Mick & Eileen O'Regan & O'Regn family Sean, John & Bridget Horan Catherine & Anthony Lawlor Mary & Frank Dunne William & Annie Keenahan Joh Lawlor Michael Heffernan Lawlor & Heffernan families Noel, Joan & Coleman Corboy
Carrig	9.300 a.m.	Jack & Ciss Cashen

Please pray for the soul of



Des Shiel, Florida and late of Burkes Hill,
brother of the late Dora Dowell.

Christmas Mass Bouquets
are now available in Parish Office with a
donation of €5. Proceeds are used for
charitable projects.



An Advent Poem

Light looked down
and saw darkness
"I will go there", said Light
Peace looked down
and saw war
"I will go there", said Peace
Love looked down
and saw hatred
"I will go there", said Love
So He, the Lord of Light,
The Prince of Peace,
The King of Love
Came down and crept in beside us.

Our **Ecumenical Carol Service** will be in St
Brendan's Church, Wilmer Road at 7.30pm on
this Sunday 15 December. All are very welcome.

Our **Christmas Priests' Collection** will be taken
up at all masses next weekend, 21st/22nd De-
cember. Your generosity to this collection is very
much appreciated.

If you are planning on **getting married in 2020**
please be prepared to give at least 3 - 6 months
notice which will allow time for the necessary civil
and church requirements to be completed.
Please contact any of the priests or the Parish
Office for further information.

Midland Living Links will hold a coffee morning
in the Conference Room at the rear of St.
Brendan's church on Tuesday 17th after the
10.00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

St. Pio Mass next Thursday 19th December
evening at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

The **Parish Office** will close for Christmas on
Saturday 21st December and will re-open on
Thursday 2nd January.

Basket Fund Collection Last Sunday €1,647.00
Many Thanks
Parish Fund Collectors - December 22nd
R. Verney & M. Mannion

Sponsored By

Birr Town F. C.

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Domhnach na Lúcháire, Domhnach Gaudete.
Tá an tríú Domhnach na hAidbhinte buailte linn. Go
traidisiúnta tugadh Domhnach na Lúcháire,
Domhnach Gaudete, ar an tríú Domhnach den Aid-
bhint mar is briathra tosaigh na Loinneige don
Iontróid iad: "Bígí lúcháireach i gcónaí sa Tiarna. Dei-
rim arís é: bíodh lúcháir oraibh. Bíodh bhur gceans-
acht le feiceáil ag an saol mór, mar ní fada uainn an
Tiarna". (Fil 4:4-5).

**A Dhia, go dtuga tú neart agus misneach dúinn
tréithe fóna a chothú ionainn féin i gcónaí. Ái-
méan**

Paidir le linn Chrann Nollag a réiteach.

Dhia dhílis, cruthaitheoir na gcrann, cuir do
bheannacht ar an gCrann Nollag seo agus é ina
sheasamh mar shiombail ar an áthas, ar an dóchas
agus ar an mbeatha i ndorchadas an Gheimhridh. Go
raibh na géaga síorghlasa air ina gcomhartha dúinn ar
do ghealltanais shíoraí.

Go raibh a shoilse agus a ornáidí ildathacha mar
spreagadh dúinn chun an teaghlach/pobal seo
againne agus an domhan ina bhfuilimid, a mhaisiú le
grá, le dóchas, le solas, agus le creideamh.
Go raibh na bronntanais a leagfar faoi mar shiombailí
ar na bronntanais a bhronn Íosa orainn le crann an
tslánaithe. Ag breathnú dúinn ar an gcrann glas seo le
linn tréimhse naofa na Nollag, go dtaga lúcháir agus
síocháin Chríost chun nead a dhéanamh ina ghéaga,
sa chlann/sa phobal seo, agus inár gcroí. Áiméan.

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Traditionally it is
called Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday because of the
first words of the Introit of the Mass. Rejoice in the
Lord always. Again, I will say Rejoice. Let your gentle-
ness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. (Phil 4:
4-5).

**Lord, may you give us the strength and courage
to develop virtues in us now and always. Amen**

Prayer as you prepare the Christmas tree .

Faithful God, the creator of the trees, bless this Christ-
mas Tree, a symbol of joy hope and life in the dark-
ness of winter. May its evergreen branches be a sign
of your eternal promise. May its lights and colorful
ornaments inspire us to make our home/community
and our world places of love, hope, light and faith.
May the gifts placed underneath be symbols of the
gifts granted to us by Jesus on his saving Cross. As
we look at the tree during the holy season of Christ-
mas may it fill our hearts with the joy and peace of
Christ and let that joy and peace extend to our com-
munity and the whole world. Amen.