

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish Mobile: 087-3515294

Website: www.stbrendansbirr.ie

Email: info@stbrendansbirr.ie

Priest on Duty - Please call Parish Mobile - 087-3515294

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

Queen of the May

Bring flow'rs of the fairest,
Bring flow'rs of the rarest,
From garden and woodland
And hillside and vale;
Our full hearts are swelling,
Our Glad voices telling
The praise of the loveliest
Rose of the vale.

O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May,
O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.

Reopening of Churches for Private Personal Prayer

In light of the Government announcement last Friday, the generally improving situation and in line with the start of phase one of the lifting of restrictions our Churches will reopen for personal prayer, to light a candle or make a visit from May 18th, provided required standards for sanitisation could be met.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present
In the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sun 10th	10.30 a.m.	Brendan Nolan , Killyon (MM) Valerie McIntyre (1st Ann) Martin Hynes, Castle Gardens Tim Hutchinson Sarah Barry Turley
Tues 12th	10.00 a.m.	Tom McInerney (MM) Deceased Eucharistic Adorers
Sat 16th	10.00 a.m.	Lucy & Edward Hogan & daughters Sheila Hogan & Ciss Cashen . Ciss Hogan Jim & Florence Guilfoyle
Sun 17th	10.30 a.m.	Martin Ryan (1st Ann) & his wife Katie Mai Bergin, Emmet Street (1st Ann) James Hegarty, Cappaneale Margaret & William Hegarty Ann & Paul Ricketts Connerton family Emiley & Devassey Thekkan Devassy O.A. James O'Callaghan Dan "Donie" Carroll, Bulfin Park Donald & Margie Brady John & Mary Murray Fr. Henry Torpey



Please Pray for the Souls of

Paddy Molloy, Burkes Hill,
Helena Maria White, Arraghmore, Carrig,
Alo Boyd, Fivealley,
brother of Pam Egan, Cree,
Margaret Doyle, aunt of Patricia McAteer, McRegol Park

Thanks to shops who are facilitating distribution of the newsletter:

Horan's Daybreak, John's Place
The Store, Carrig
Mulrooney's Gala, Roscrea Road
Corrib Oil Garage, Banagher Road
Loughnane's Garage, Tullamore Road

Parish Contributions

Thank You - A number of Parishioners have contacted us in connection with contributions. If people wish, they can do so by lodging directly to the parish bank account.

BIC - BOFIE2D
IBAN - IE40BOFI90167724940777

We acknowledge parishioners who contributed to the Easter Priests' Collection and the Parish Development Fund via letterbox and by post.

Sponsored By

Campbell's Hackney Service

Contact Michael on 087-2618507 or 057-9120407

Woodland Park, Birr

LEARNING FROM THE CORONAVIRUS TO BE MORE HUMAN

In a very short space of time, we human beings are becoming aware of our own fragility. We have discovered that not just some are weak. The whole of humanity is weak. Suddenly, the coronavirus pandemic has shown us that humanity is an endangered species. Within just a few days we are becoming humbler and more insecure. The virus is forcing us to think, to reflect and to meditate.

In a highly- populated world where we cannot agree on how to react to climate change, where nature is deteriorating, where some species of animals are becoming extinct it is not strange that viruses that are also part of the ecosystem would begin to react in unexpected ways. These days all kinds of reflections are being disseminated on social media. The assertion by the Brazilian writer Elaine Brum has made a strong impact:

"The effect of this pandemic is a sharper, more targeted response than the response to the climate crisis that has a much slower pace. It is as if the virus may be showing us how we will soon be living".

I do not know if it will be exactly like that. Regardless, the virus does not allow us to deceive ourselves. Our naivety that we humans control the world has unravelled in a matter of days. We have to change our way of life. The virus is showing us that we all belong to the same species. We urgently need to learn to live in greater solidarity, seeking the common good for all humanity.

The system that controls the world at this time is inhuman: it leads to the senseless, dehumanising lifestyle of the privileged few, and ruins the lives of a huge majority of defenceless human beings. This system makes it impossible to get public consensus to focus on the common good of humanity in a world that should be a home for all.

We Christians also have to reflect and meditate to discern how we can live more humanely, and in greater solidarity, after this pandemic. Many Christians do not know that the most important task Jesus had in this world was to promote the humanising plan of God, which He called the Kingdom of God. This plan is not in itself a religion. It goes beyond the beliefs, precepts and rites of any religion.

According to Jesus, the ultimate mystery of life is a God who is Father of all. Humanity is simply the family of all His sons and daughters. The only objective of the Father here on earth is to continue to build up a family where justice, equality and solidarity reign. This is the way to create a world that is increasingly human, where all may live with dignity. It is He, too, who allows those who believe to live with the hope that, one day, after we die, we will get to know the Fullness of life for all humanity.

Believing in a God who is Father of all can help us these days to feel that, not only are we members of the same species, but brothers and sisters of the same family. The experience of being brothers and sisters can strengthen our ability to grow in solidarity. Living with this attitude can impel us to search for the common good of all humanity. The great call of Jesus to human beings is this: *"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given unto you as well"* (Mathew 6:33).

José Antonio Pagola. 6th March 2020

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Mí na Bealtaine.

Tá an mhí seo tiomnaithe don Mhaighdean Mhuire. Bhí muintir na hÉireann an-ómósach do Mhuire i gcónaí. Tá nós ag daoine altóir a chruthú ina dtithe in onóir na Maighdine Muire i rith Mí na Bealtaine agus an Choróin Mhuire a rá gach lá. I mbliana d'iarr an Pápa Proinsias orainn an Choróin Mhuire a rá san am ina bhfuilimid in aonrú sóisialta. I rith na seachtaine seo caite mhol an t Easpag Fiontán dúinn feidhm a bhaint as Paidir na gCúig Mhéar agus an Paidrín Páirteach á rá againn. Bheartaigh an Pápa Proinsias an tseif blianta sular toghadh ina Phápa é chun cabhrú le daoine teagmháil a dhéanamh le Dia.

An Ordóg: Is í an ordóg an mhéar is gaire duit. Tosaigh ag guí ar son na ndaoine is gaire duit. Is iad seo na daoine is fusa smaoineamh orthu. Tá sé de dhuilgias orainn smaoineamh ar na daoine is ansa linn.

An Mhéar Thosaigh, (an Chormhéar): Guímis ar son na ndaoine a mhúineann, a threoraíonn agus a leigheasann sinn. Tá gá acu do thacaíocht agus d'eagna chun daoine eile a threorú.

An Mhéar Fhada: Cuireann an mhéar seo i gcuimhne dúinn ár gceannairí agus lucht údaráis. Tá treoir Dé uathu de shíor.

Méar an Fháinne: Is í seo an mhéar is laige. Cuireann sé i gcuimhne dúinn guí ar son daoine laga, daoine breoite agus iad siúd faoi bhrón agus bhriseadh croí. Guímis ar a son.

An Lúidín: Is í seo an mhéar is lú. Guímis ar ár son féin. Feicimid ár riachtanais tar éis dúinn guí ar son na ngrúpaí eile. Bain triail as guí sa mhodh seo agus go n-éirí an t-ádh leat.

Month of May

This month is dedicated to Our Lady. Irish people have always had great respect for Our Lady. It is still a custom to have a May altar in homes and recite the rosary daily during the month of May. This year Pope Francis has asked us to use our time of social isolation and cocooning to pray the Rosary. Last week Bishop Fintan advised us to use the Prayer of the Five Fingers when saying the Rosary. This is a method of prayer devised by Pope Francis some years before he was elected Pope.

1. **The thumb** is closest finger to you. So, start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a "Sweet Obligation."

2. **The index finger** is next. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.

3. **The middle finger** is the longest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.

4. **The fourth finger** is the ring finger. It is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need your prayers.

5. **And finally, the smallest** of all. It reminds you to pray for yourself. When you have prayed for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

Pope Francis has also asked us to use our time of social isolation and cocooning to pray the Rosary. May you succeed when you try praying in this way.