

## 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.

**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: joewalstours.ie

**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.

**BIRR YOUNG VOICES 2020** - An invitation to ALL BOYS & GIRLS who like to sing! Ages 9-12 years (2nd-6th classes) JOIN BIRR YOUNG VOICES - A growing multi-cultural children's choral group, THURSDAYS 4pm-5.15pm from 16th January-May. Enrolment forms at Birr Library, Birr Theatre or www.birrtheatre.com. Nominal enrolment fee, no other costs. Enquiries 087 2836675.

**Diabetes Education Course - CODE** - 'Community Oriented Diabetes Education'. Programmes are run by Diabetes Ireland, and are free to attend. The next CODE programme in Co Tipperary will run at Cre House, Primary Care Centre, Roscrea, starting Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2020 in the morning. It runs over 3 weeks, and each session lasts 2 – 2 ½ hours, with a follow up at 6 months. CODE covers 'what is diabetes/ pre-diabetes', 'knowing my numbers', physical activity and healthy eating. To book your place, phone 071 9146001 or email [info@diabetes.ie](mailto:info@diabetes.ie). Please note: places are limited and must be pre-booked.

### Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 4th	7.30 p.m.	May O'Keefe Agnes Pardy Bridget Fogarty Evan Hogan Michael Cleary, Castletown & his brother Jack
Sun 5th	8.30 a.m.	Eva Bodikova (1st Ann)
	10.30 a.m.	Denis Guinan (1st Ann) Michael & Nora Grennan
	12 noon	Geraldine Bergin, Emmet Street Geoff Liffey
Mon 6th	10.00 a.m.	Denny Tierney John & Bridget Doyle Denis & Mary Tierney & daughters Patricia & Josephine O'Connor
Sat 11th	7.30 p.m.	Jim & Mollie Brien Tommy Wrafter
Sun 12th	10.30 a.m.	Patrick, Jimmy & Margaret Smyth Elizabeth O'Meara, Fortal John Irwin
	12 noon	James & Ellen Feehily & daughter Ann
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Sean Whyte

### Please pray for the souls of



Bridget Featherstone, Manchester,  
and late of High Street, Birr,  
Kathleen Gallagher,  
sister of Michael Feighery,  
Sr. Madeleine Minogue, Sacred Heart Order,  
Dublin & Roscrea,  
sister of Sr. Kathleen Minogue.

**Group Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** - 19th - 26th August 2020.  
Price €675 if booked before February 1st (€725 afterwards)  
Accompanied by Fr. Tom Hannon as spiritual director. For  
more information contact Phil on 086-3956299.

**West Offaly Training** are running some great courses in  
2020, FREE Smartphone/Computer/iPad training for beginners  
starting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, Train the Trainer QQI level 6 start-  
ing 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, Manual Handling/Abrasive Wheel training  
(weekly), New After school coding for kids starting 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
Jan (Micor:bit & Stop Motion), Makeup Course Starting 27<sup>th</sup>  
Jan, Tai Chi starting 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, Mindfulness Course starting  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb, ECDL starting 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, Understanding Autism Starting  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb and MS Excel & Word starting 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Call  
0579152003 to find out more.

**Basket Fund Collection Last Sunday €1,870**  
**Many Thanks**  
**Parish Fund Collectors - Jan 12th**  
**B. Bolger & G. Cashen**

Sponsored By

# Anonymous

### "Begin"

Begin again to the summoning birds  
to the sight of the light at the window,  
begin to the roar of morning traffic  
all along Pembroke Road.

Every beginning is a promise  
born in light and dying in dark  
determination and exaltation of springtime  
flowering the way to work.

Begin to the pageant of queuing girls  
the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal  
bridges linking the past and future  
old friends passing though with us still.

Begin to the loneliness that cannot end  
since it perhaps is what makes us begin,  
begin to wonder at unknown faces  
at crying birds in the sudden rain  
at branches stark in the willing sunlight  
at seagulls foraging for bread  
at couples sharing a sunny secret  
alone together while making good.

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending  
that always seems about to give in  
something that will not acknowledge conclusion  
insists that we forever begin.

Brendan Kennelly

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Next **Monday, 6 January**, is  
the Feast of the Epiphany  
when we celebrate the arrival  
of the Magi to the new-born  
Jesus.

Mass will be in St. Brendan's  
at 7.30 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
and at 7.30p.m. in Carrig.



### Epiphany

It might have been just someone else's story,  
Some chosen people get a special king.  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

(Malcolm Guite)

### Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

**An Dara Domhnach tar éis na Nollag.**

Amárach 6 Eanáir ceiliúrtar Sollúntacht  
Eipeafáine an Tiarna. Tugtar Lá Nollag Beag nó  
Nollaig na mBan ar an bhféile seo chomh maith.  
Ciallaíonn an focal 'Eipeafáine' foilsíú. Inniu  
fógraítear gurb é Íosa Críost Slánaitheoir an  
domhain. Tháinig na Saoithe ón Oirthear chun  
ómós a thabhairt do Mhac Dé. Foilsíodh an  
Slánaitheoir do na Gintlí i bpearsana na Saoithe  
a fuair treoir ó réalta go Beithil. Bhí a fhios acu  
gur rugadh Rí nua agus go raibh urraim ar leith  
ag dul dó. Shléacht siad go talamh roimhe agus  
bhronn siad tabhartais an-luachmhar, ór, túis  
agus miorr, air. Ghabh an Triúr Saoi bóthar eile  
abhaile ag tabhairt neamhaird ar achainí Héaród  
Tá sé de nós ag daoine tabhairt faoi rún na Bli-  
ana Úr. Má tá faillí déanta againn ar aon cheann  
de na Deich nÁitheanta is féidir linn díriú air.  
Is mise an Tiarna do Dhia, ná bíodh déithe  
bréige agat i mo chomhair.  
Ná tabhair ainm an Tiarna do Dhia gan ábhar.  
Coinnigh lá na Sabóide a naomhú  
Tabhair do d'athair agus do do mháthair onóir.  
Ná déan marú.  
Ná déan drúis.  
Ná déan goid.

Ná tabhair fianaise bhréige in aghaidh do  
chomharsan.  
Ná santaigh bean do chomharsa.  
Ná santaigh cuid do chomharsa.

**Moladh go deo le Dia.**

**I mí Eanáir, bí linn, a Thiarna. Áiméan**

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on 6  
January. This feast is also called Little Christmas  
and Women's Christmas. The Three Kings ar-  
rived from the East to honour the Infant Jesus.  
They represented the Gentiles and were directed  
by a star to Bethlehem. They knew that a King  
was born who deserved homage and respect.  
They knelt to worship Him and offered Him pre-  
cious, symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and  
myrrh. They returned home a different way disre-  
garding Herod's request.  
Most people make New Year's Resolutions. We  
can focus our attention on the Ten Command-  
ments.

I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any  
strange gods before Me.  
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God  
in vain.  
Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.  
Honor thy father and mother.  
Thou shalt not kill.  
Thou shalt not commit adultery.  
Thou shalt not steal.  
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy  
neighbor.  
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.  
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.