

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 - Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

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

Pending Governmental approval all Masses will return to normal this week including all masses on next Sunday. Otherwise, they will continue as at present behind closed doors.

If Level 5 restrictions are lifted and we return to Level 3 or lower the **Parish Office** will **re-open to the public on Tuesday 1st December**. You can continue to book masses or order mass cards by telephone. Contact Emer on 057-9122028.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are now available from the Parish Office at a cost of €5 each.

Eucharistic Adoration takes place in **St. Brendan's Church** in the main body of the church at the following times:

Monday 11.00 a.m. - 12 noon

Tuesday - Friday - 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

We ask people to stay and keep watch with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Each year **Birr Lions Club** hold an annual fast in aid of the **St. Vincent de Paul** here in Birr. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic this will not take place this year. Instead a **GoFundMe** page has been set up by the Birr Lions Club to raise funds for the local SVP group. If you would like to donate please see www.gofundme.com/f/birr-svp-appeal for more details.

We are especially grateful to the following **shop owners** who allow us to leave newsletters for parishioners - Horan's Daybreak, Newbridge Street, Mulrooney's Gala, Wilmer Road, Carrig Stores, Corrib Oil, Banagher Road and Loughnane's Centre, Tullamore Road.

Last Week's Donations - Many Thanks
Parish Donations - €1,050

Envelopes and donations can be left in the **locked green box** by the altar rails. We are **very appreciative** of your continued support during these **difficult times**.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 28th	7.30 p.m.	Florence & William Cooke & their son Teddy
Sun 29th	10.30 a.m.	Sheila Murdock (1st Ann) and her father Bill Dwyer, Eglishe Bernie Sheeran (1st Ann) Tom & Norah Maguire
	12 noon	Raymond Murray (MM) Kathleen Gallagher (MM) John McCarthy, High Street
Mon 30th	10.00 a.m.	Holy Souls
Fri 4th	7.30 p.m.	Matthew Gleeson Carrig
Sat 5th	7.30 p.m.	Adrian Cahill (MM) Phyl & Billy Murphy Liam & Joan McGlone
Sun 6th	8.30 a.m.	Michael Maher
	10.30 a.m.	Mary, Paddy & John Quigley, Cornmarket Street Gerard Wynne Susan, Martin & Rynagh Byrne
	12 noon	Seamus & Triona Loughnane & daughter-in-law Gail O'Donnell & Loughnane families

Please Pray for the Souls of



Maura Troy (nee Carroll), Kilbeggan and late of Seffin, sister of Seamus Carroll, Bulfin Park, Joe Leahy, Abbeyfeale, brother-in-law of Michael Hogan Killeen, and brother of the late Helen Hogan. Bernard Gleeson, late of O'Connell Street and brother of the late Austin.

ADVENT

This Sunday a new church year begins with the celebration of the **First Sunday of Advent** and it is a signal for us as Christians to begin our preparations to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.

The **Advent Wreath** is a circle of evergreens bearing four candles. The circle represents the cycle of time and is a symbol of perfection, of eternity and of fidelity. The evergreens represent hope in the cold, bare days of winter. The candles will be a symbol of the coming light of Christ, growing stronger as we light an extra candle each week.



Sunday 29th November Feast of St. Brendan of Birr



Saint Brendan of Birr (died c. 572) was one of the early Irish monastic saints. He was a monk and later an abbot, of the 6th century. He is known as "St Brendan the Elder" to distinguish him from his contemporary and friend St Brendan the Navigator of Clonfert. He was one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland, a friend and disciple of Saint Columba.

In early Christian Ireland the druid tradition collapsed with the spread of the new faith. Study of Latin learning and Christian theology in monasteries flourished. Brendan became a pupil at the monastic school at Clonard Abbey. During the sixth century, some of the most significant names in the history of Irish Christianity studied at the Clonard monastery. It is said that the average number of scholars under instruction at Clonard was 3,000. Twelve students who studied under Saint Finian became known as the Twelve Apostles of Ireland; Brendan of Birr was one of these.

Brendan of Birr is said to have been of a noble Munster family. It was at Clonard that Brendan became a friend and companion of Ciarán of Saigir and Brendan of Clonfert.

He founded the monastery at Birr in about 540, serving as its abbot. He emerges from early Irish writings as a man of generous hospitality with a reputation for sanctity and spirituality who was an intuitive judge of character. He was considered one of the chief prophets of Ireland. His friendship and support for Columba resulted in important connections between Birr and the Columban foundations. An adviser of Columba said that the saint saw a vision of Brendan's soul being carried away by angels after his death.

Brendan's monastery was later to produce the MacRegol Gospels, which are now housed at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. St. Brendan's Well is located in the grounds of Birr Castle.

Prayer to St. Brendan

Lord God, our Father, who calls women and men in every generation to follow the Lord Jesus and give their lives to Him, we thank You for the work of Your faithful servant Brendan, For his devotion to teaching the Christian faith in challenging times, And for his initiative in founding a monastic community in Birr; And we pray that women and men whom You are calling today may hear Your voice, And gladly give their lives like Brendan, To serve You, through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Mí na Nollag.

I rith Mí na Nollag bí linn a Thiarna, mí Bhreith ár Slánaitheora, mí lár an Gheimhridh, mí dheiridh den bhliain, mí na mbronntanas. Is í intinn an Phápa don mhí seo ná: Go gcothaí Briathar Dé agus ár n-urnaí féin ár ngaol pearsanta le hÍosa Críost. Inniu an chéad Domhnach den Aidhbhaint agus tá bliain úr, nua na hEaglaise ag tosú agus ár n-aird dírithe ar chomhlíonadh phlean Dé nuair a thiofadh a ríocht.

Agus sinne, Críostaithe, ag feitheamh le Dia, ní le Dia anaithnid éigin, ach Dia dofheicthe a d'fhoilsigh é féin i gCríost agus sa Spiorad Naomh atá linn i gcónaí agus go deireadh an tsaoil. Is ionann feitheamh le Dia dúinn agus feitheamh le comhlíonadh ghealltanas Dé, teacht ríocht Dé, ríocht shíoraí gan teorainn, ríocht na fírinne agus na beatha, ríocht na naofachta agus an ghrásta, ríocht an chirt, an ghrá agus na síochána. Le linn na hAidhbhaint ba chóir dúinn iarracht a dhéanamh chun bealach an Tiarna a réiteach agus cúl a thabhairt dár bpeacaí ionas go mbeimid in ann fáilte a chur roimhe nuair a thiofadh Sé.

Guímis: A Dhia, a Athair uilechumhachtaigh, impímid ort as ucht do thrócaire, bí taobh linn i gcónaí le cabhair an Spioraid Naoimh. Go dtuga Féile tréimhse na hAidhbhaint lúcháir, sonas agus síocháin dúinn féin, dár muintir agus dár dtír uile. Sin é ár nguí chugat trí Chríost ár dTiarna. Áiméan.

Month of Christmas

Lord be with us during the month of December, month of the Birth of Our Saviour mid-Winter, last month of the year, month of gift giving. The Pope's intention for this month is: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer. Today is the first Sunday in Advent; the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. Our attention is focused on the fulfilment of God's plan for us when His kingdom will come.

As Christians we are waiting for God, not some unknown God but an invisible God who has revealed himself in Christ and in the Holy Spirit and is with us always to the end of time. Waiting for God means waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise, the coming of God's kingdom an eternal kingdom of justice, love and peace. During Advent we ought to follow the way of the Lord and repent of our sins, so that we can welcome Jesus when He comes.

We pray: Almighty God in your mercy, be with us always with the help of the Holy Spirit. May the season of Advent be a time of joy, happiness, peace for each of us, our people and our country. We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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Anonymous