

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

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.

ADVENT

"Advent is often seen as a time of preparation, of repentance in advance of the Lord's coming. This is right and fitting. It is also good news. We must seek the Lord, who is all the time awaiting us. Advent must also be marked by a spirit that searches again for the footprints of Jesus in human lives and in world history. There must be within us an advent frame of mind, with ears open for the voice of that divine lover, whose advances are compelling, and also demanding...He is all around us to be seen, to be welcomed, to be fed and clothed." (From 'The Spirit of Advent' by Thomas McCarthy OP)

We light the second candle on our Advent Wreath; it's increasing light reminds us of the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus.



Sponsored By

Anonymous

Remembered in Mass this Week

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 Eileen & James Ryan
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Sinead O'Brien, Riverstown (MM)
Mon 7th	10.00 a.m.	Billy Joyce & his daughter Jill Tully
	7.30 p.m.	Michael & Mary Haverty
Tues 8th	10.00 a.m.	Chris & Seamus Kennedy Deceased Eucharistic Adorers
Wed 9th	10.00 a.m.	John Hutchinson (MM)
Thur 10th	10.00 a.m.	Nellie, Gerry & Ann Daly
Fri 11th	10.00 a.m.	Anne Reddan John Grace John & Annie Coolahan, sons Michael & Patrick & daughter Anna
Sat 12th	10.00 a.m.	Conor McManus
	7.30 p.m.	Paddy "Paudge" O'Meara & his wife Chrissie Martin Burrow & Burrow family William & Adelaide O'Donoghue
Sun 13th	10.30 a.m.	Helen Carroll, Whiteford
	12 noon	Patsy Garahy Ian Smith, Bulfin Park

Please Pray for the Souls of



Mary Kearns, Oxmantown Mall,
Bea Irwin, Syngfield,
Paddy McIntyre, Emmet Street,
Elizabeth (Hilda) Scully, Dublin,
formerly of Birr

Tuesday, **8th of December** is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** and is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated in St. Brendan's, Birr at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 7th and at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Mass in the Church of the Annunciation, Carrig will be celebrated on Tuesday 8th at 7.30 p.m.

Collection Envelopes for 2021 are now available for distribution. Distributors are asked to collect their boxes from the Conference Room. As we do not have distributors in every area you may not receive a box. Please contact Emer in the Parish Office to request one. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your continued support to our collections.

The ADVENT Virus

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Do no try to seek a cure or vaccine.

Let it run its course.

In these times of Government lockdown and restrictions on attendances at public masses, many people who are unable to attend church services are interested in contributing to the support of their parish or their priests. Sincere thanks to all our parishioners who have contributed during this time. It is now possible to make a contribution by credit or debit card directly to **Birr Parish** using the Diocesan Website – www.killaloe-diocese.ie. The contribution as received by the Diocesan website will be fully paid to **Birr Parish**. Simply go to the Diocesan Website and click on the red "Donate to your Parish" button on the top of the page. You will be invited to select your parish and the parish fund you wish to contribute to. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Last Week's Donations - Many Thanks
Parish Donations - €855**

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**.

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

An Dara Domhnach den Aidhaint.

Tá áthas croí orainn go léir bheith in ann freastal ar sheirbhísí Eaglaise arís. Ní foláir dúinn bheith cúramach agus na treoracha a thugtar dúinn a chomhlíonadh. Is féidir linn freisin guí go dtiocfaidh deireadh leis an víreas go luath.

Ní fada uainn féasta Bhreith Ár dTiarna. Is léir agus is cinnte gur tréimhse dhian ullmhúcháin saolta í dúinn go léir. Caithfidimid ullmhúcháin spioradálta a dhéanamh freisin. Sna heaglaisí feicfidh tú Crann leise, crann ginealaigh Íosa Chríost, agus samhail chomhartha na ndaoine a chuaigh roimhe ó Ádhamh agus Éabha go dtí Muire Máthair Íosa.

Ar an 8 Nollaig ceiliúrtar Giniúint gan Smál na Maighdine Muire. Solúntas lán d'áthas is ea an Fhéile seo. Nuair a tháinig an tAingeal Gabriel le teachtaireacht chuig Muire, d'inis sé di go raibh sí lán de ghrásta agus go raibh sí tofa mar mháthair ár Slánaitheora. D'fhreagair Muire "Déantar liom de réir d'fhocal". Is é seo croí lár an tslánaithe. Ghlac Muire go huile is go hiomlán lena gairm. D'fhógair an Pápa Pius X An Ghiniúint gan Smál sa bhliain 1858.

Bhí ardmheas ag ár sinsir ar Mhuire toisc gur Máthair Íosa í. Déarfáidís an paidrín páirteach gach oíche roimh dhul a chodladh dóibh. Go dtugaimid ómós di sa phaidrín Cheilteach seo agus sinn ag iarraidh uirthi teacht i gcabhair orainn in am an ghátair:

**A Mháthair glórmhair
a chíos ár ndochar agus díobháil,
go scara tú do bhrat beannaithe tharainn. Áiméan.**

Second Sunday of Advent

We are all very happy to be able to attend religious services again. Let us be careful and follow the directions laid down for us. Let us pray also for an end to the virus.

Christmas is near. It is a time of feverish preparation and buying. We ought to make spiritual preparation also. In the churches you will see the Jesse Tree, the genealogy of Jesus and the symbols of persons from Adam and Eve to Mary the mother of Jesus.

On the 8 December the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is celebrated. It is a feast full of joy. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was full of grace and chosen to be the mother of our Saviour "Let it be done unto me according to thy word". Mary accepted her calling willingly. Pope Pius X declared the Immaculate Conception of Mary in 1858.

Our ancestors had great devotion to Our Lady and the rosary was said before retiring. May we honour Our Lady as we say the following Celtic prayer, asking her to be with us always.

**Glorious Mother
who sees our distress and deprivation;
may you wrap us in your holy mantle. Amen**

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Next Thursday 10th December at 8.00 p.m.
in St. Brendan's Church. We would be grateful if all members could attend.