

## 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

St. Pio Mass takes place next Thursday evening,  
17th December at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome.

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

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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.

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Mobile Foot Health Practitioner Service - House  
Calls Available Daytime and Evening. Contact  
Maura at 086-8053671 to arrange an appointment.

## ADVENT

This is **Gaudete Sunday**.  
The joy of the kingdom is  
anticipated. The signs of  
the kingdom already come  
are given to the messen-  
gers of John the Baptist  
and the prophet Isaiah. Pa-  
tient waiting for fulfilment  
duty is our Christian duty.  
We should not complain or  
give up heart. Joy, prayer  
and thanksgiving should  
characterise our Christian  
community.



We light the third candle on our Advent Wreath;  
it's increasing light reminds us of the coming cele-  
bration of the birth of Jesus.

Sponsored By

**Anonymous**

## Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 12th	7.30 p.m.	Paddy "Paudge" O'Meara & his wife Chrissie Martin Burrow & Burrow family William & Adelaide O'Donoghue Mary & Tom Ryan
Sun 13th	10.30 a.m.	Helen Carroll, Whiteford
	12 noon	Patsy Garahy Ian Smith, Bulfin Park
Mon 14th	10.00 a.m.	Sean, John & Bridget Horan Catherine & Anthony Lawlor Mary & Frank Dunne John McNally & Joe Rushe William & Annie Keenahan Heffernan & Lawlor families
Tues 15th	10.00 a.m.	Watson & Treacy families
Wed 16th	10.00 a.m.	Young & Gorman families
Fri 18th	10.00 a.m.	Tony Doran Ann & Patrick Maughan daughter Mary & son Anthony Patrick Kiely
Sat 19th	10.00 a.m.	Michael Clery, Castletown & his brother Jack
	7.30 p.m.	Kevin Abbott (MM) John Roe Jody Donoghue & Daly family James Quinn James Coughlan
Sun 20th	10.30 a.m.	Thomas "Charlie" Brummell John Hogan, Newbridge Street Anne Mulvey, Hillside Michael & Jim Hogan
	12 noon	Patrick Gray (1st Ann) Bridget Featherstone (1st Ann) Peter Hynes, Castle Gardens Mick & Eileen O'Regan & O'Regan family
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Jack & Ciss Cashen



### Please Pray for the Souls of

Mary Murphy, Kilmaine, Claren,  
Paudge Garahy,  
London and late of Coolnagrower,  
brother of Noreen Garahy, Fortal.

Collection Envelopes for 2021 are now available for  
distribution. Distributors are asked to collect their boxes  
from behind the altar. 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.

Last Week's Donations - Many Thanks  
Parish Donations - €2,025

## Christmas Mass Arrangements

### St. Brendan's Church

#### Christmas Eve

5.00 p.m.

7.00 p.m.

9.00 p.m.

#### Christmas Day

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

12 noon

### Church of the Annunciation, Carrig

#### Christmas Eve

7.30 p.m.

#### Christmas Day

9.30 a.m.

- Masses will be streamed live on our Facebook  
page 'Brendan Birr'.
- Mass from St. Brendan's can be received on the  
radio
- There are facilities at both Carrig and Birr for peo-  
ple to join the Mass from their cars in the car  
parks via outside speakers. Holy Communion will  
be distributed outside.
- Families can sit in a family group and couples can  
sit together.
- There is limited seating capacity at each Mass  
due to COVID-19 restrictions and to this end we  
are using a **ticketing system** for our Christmas  
Mass celebrations. Tickets for each Mass are  
available on a first come, first served basis and  
can be collected after each mass this weekend.  
Any surplus tickets will be available from the Par-  
ish Office during the week. We thank you for  
your understanding.

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### Bambinelli Sunday (Baby Jesus Sunday)

is a beautiful Ad-  
vent tradition. Every year on one  
Sunday of Advent, families bring  
the figure of Baby Jesus to St. Pe-  
ter's Square, Rome for the Pope to bless them.  
Many homes in our parish still give a central place  
to the crib among their Christmas decorations. Next  
Saturday and Sunday we invite you to bring the  
Baby Jesus from your home to any mass in Birr  
Parish and they will be blessed by the celebrant.



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The **Christmas Priests' Collection** will be taken up  
at all masses next weekend, 19th and 20th Decem-  
ber. Your generosity to this collection will be very  
much appreciated.

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

### Domhnach na Lúcháire

Inniu an tríú Domhnach den Aidbhint agus tá an Nol-  
laig buailte linn nach mór. Go traidisiúnta tugadh  
Domhnach Gaudete nó Domhnach na Lúcháire ar an  
tríú Domhnach den Aidbhint agus is briathra tosaigh  
na Loinneoire don Iontróid ná: "Bígí lúcháireach i  
gcónaí sa Tiarna. Deirim arís é: bíodh lúcháir oraibh.  
Bíodh bhur gceansacht le feiceáil ag an saol mór, mar  
ní fada uainn an Tiarna". (Fil 4:4-5).

Diríonn téama na hAidbhinte ár n-aire ar theacht Íosa  
ar an saol seo. I Liotúirge an Bhriathair san Aifreann  
inniu meabhraítear dúinn gurbh é Naomh Eoin Baiste  
a d'ullmhaigh an bealach don Tiarna agus tá lúcháir  
an Tiarna le brath ina mhisean. Ina sheanmóir  
Domhnach na Lúcháire 2014, dúirt an Pápa Proinsias  
gur chóir do dhaoine gan bheith róbhuartha faoi na  
rudaí nach bhfuil déanta acu chun bheith réidh don  
Nollaig ach bheith ag smaoinreamh ar na rudaí ionta-  
cha atá faighte acu sa saol.

Caitheann an sagart éide rósdathach agus lastar an  
choinneal rósdath i bhFleasc na hAidbhinte. Mea-  
bhraíonn an t-athrú datha dúinn misneach a bheith  
againn agus leanúint ar aghaidh lenár n-ullmhúcháin  
spioradálta go mór mór le paidreoireacht agus le  
troscadh.

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

### Gaudete Sunday

Today is the third Sunday of Advent and Christmas is  
near. Traditionally it is called Gaudete or Rejoicing  
Sunday and the first words of the Introit of the Mass  
are: "Rejoice in the Lord always again, I say rejoice!  
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord  
is near. (Phil 4: 4-5).

The theme of Advent focuses on the coming of Jesus.  
In the Liturgy of the Word today, we are reminded that  
St. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord and  
joy is felt in his mission. Pope Francis in his 2014  
Gaudete Sunday homily said that we should not worry  
too much about what we have not done in preparation  
for Christmas but to think about all the good things life  
has given us.

The priest wears rose-coloured vestments and the  
rose-coloured candle is lighting on the Advent Wreath.  
The change of colour is a reminder to increase our  
courage and to continue with our spiritual preparation  
especially through prayer and fasting.

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