

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

The Parish Office will close for Christmas on Tuesday 22nd December at 12.30 p.m. and will re-open on Monday 4th January.

An Advent Reflection Service will take place behind closed doors on Sunday 20th December at 4.00 p.m. This service will be relayed over the radio and available on Facebook "Brendan Birr". Please note the church will be closed during this service.

Confessions will be held in St. Brendan's Church on Christmas Eve from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. It will also be available after 10.00 a.m. Mass next Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

St Brendan's Ministers of the Word - new rotas are available for collection at the back of the altar.

ADVENT

Let us make a special effort on this final Sunday of Advent to be quiet, for five minutes, and see how our spiritual preparation for Christmas has gone. Our third purple candle is lit and try and take meaning from the words of our Advent hymn:



Oh Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid now our sad divisions cease,
 And be yourself our King of Peace
 Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel
 Shall come to you, O Israel.

Be still and pray.

Sponsored By
Anonymous

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 19th	7.30 p.m.	Kevin Abbott (MM) John Roe Jody Donoghue & Daly family James Quinn James Coughlan
Sun 20th	8.30 a.m.	Rita & Tom Molloy, Connaught St. Annie & James Murtagh
	10.30 a.m.	Thomas "Charlie" Brummell John Hogan, Newbridge Street Anne Mulvey, Hillside Michael & Jim Hogan Jimmy & Frances Naughton
	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
Mon 21st	10.00 a.m.	Mary Tuohey, Drumbane Rita O'Brien & grandson Rían Thomas O'Brien
Tue 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Collins & Carmody families
Wed 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Murphy family
Thur 24th	10.00 a.m.	Margaret Mongan Margaret & Patrick Hutchinson & sons Michael & Patrick Dan Boyd
	9.00 p.m.	Christmas Triduum Intentions
Fri 25th	12 noon	Christmas Triduum Intentions
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Triduum Intentions
Sat 26th	10.00 a.m.	Paddy Keighery
	7.30 p.m.	Sarah Nugent John Nolan Willie Joe, Seamus & Maureen Mahon & family
Sun 27th	8.30 a.m.	John, Mollie & Eileen Dermody
	10.30 a.m.	Pauline & Peter O'Meara Paddy & Sheila O'Callaghan Ollie, Ethna & Kieran McCarthy
	12 noon	Mary Kearns (MM) Patrick & Bernadette Troy Maura & Mick Daly & son Michael Tom McInerney & parents Jimmy & Els
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Denis Byrne & family, Tinnakelly



Please Pray for the Souls of

Margaret Moran, Lusmagh,
 sister of Conor Dooley, John's Place,
 Frances Nolan, Kilcormac,
 mother of Shamie, Nolan, Max Shop, Birr

Last Week's Donations - Many Thanks
 Parish Donations - €1,540.00

Christmas Blessings

We warmly invite you to come and visit our churches during the Christmas season, either as part of the worshipping community or just a few moments in quiet prayer or reflection. Christmas celebration is about Light and Hope and this is more relevant than ever this year.

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.

Allocated tickets for each Mass have been distributed and a waiting list is in operation. If you have received tickets but know you will not be using them we would be grateful if you would return them for redistribution.

To ensure the safety of everyone and ensure that we do not breach government guidelines admittance to the Mass celebrations is strictly by ticket only. We actively encourage people to join our celebrations in one of the following ways. We appreciate your understanding about limited numbers.

- 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 people to join the Mass from their cars in the car parks via outside speakers. Holy Communion will be distributed outside.

Bambinelli Sunday (Baby Jesus Sunday) This weekend we invite you to place the Baby Jesus from your home on the altar rails and they will be blessed by the celebrant.



The Christmas Priests' Collection will be taken up at all masses this weekend, 19th and 20th December. 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

An Nollaig.

Táimid ag tnúth go dílis le féile na Nollag, Breith ár dTiar-na. Beimid ag ceiliúradh le dícheall is le dúthracht ar an Aoine seo chugainn. Tá na cártaí Nollag á sheoladh, na bronntanais á dháileadh agus is comharthaí grá iad seo go léir. Féile ghrá is ea an Nollaig. Ghráigh Dia chomh mór sin sinne gur sheol Sé a Mhac chugainn mar Shlánaitheoir. Déanaimis ullmhúchán spioradálta idir an dá linn. Bhíodh paidir á rá i mBéarla ag ár sinsir mar ullmhúcháin do bhreith an Linbh Íosa. Seo leagan Gaeilge de:

Is beannaithe an nóiméad a rugadh Mac na hÓige, ag meán oíche i mBeithil i lár an gheimhridh ghairbh. Deonaigh a Dhia, trí idirghuí Íosa Críost agus Muire, Máthair Íosa, éist le mo ghuí agus glac le m'achainí. Áiméan

Tá an Cró Nollag againn le beagnach ocht gcéad bliain. Naomh Proinsias Assisi a chuir tús leis an gCró Nollag san Eoraip. Sa bhliain 1220 thug sé cuairt ar Bheithil agus thaitin an tslí inar ceiliúradh an Nollaig ansin go mór leis. Nuair a d'fhill sé abhaile rinne sé mainséar in uaimh. Chuir sé íomhá chloiche den Leabhbh Íosa isteach inti agus chuir sé ainmhithe beo timpeall uirthi. Bhí na daoine an-sásta leis an gCró Nollag agus d'fhás an nós as sin.

Nollaig bheannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise go raibh agaibh go léir agus is é seo a leanas mo ghuí daoibh: Síocháin an Naí Íosa a gealladh do lucht na dea-thola, go raibh agaibh uile.

Christmas

Christmas is near and we must prepare for it. We look forward with anticipation and excitement to the feast of Christmas, the Birth of our Lord and we will celebrate with enthusiasm and eagerness on Friday next. The cards are being sent and the presents being distributed which are signs of love. God loved each of us so much that He sent His son into the world to be our saviour. Let us prepare spiritually from now on. Friendship with Christ is the light that leads us in this world. This prayer was said by our ancestors in preparation for the birth of the Child Jesus.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born, of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my petition through the intercession of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary His Mother. Amen.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. This is my wish for all. May the peace of the Infant Jesus, promised to people of goodwill be with you all this Christmas and in the New Year.