

## 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

### Week of Christian Unity 2021 18th - 25th January

Next week is 2021's designated "Week of Christian Unity". This year's theme is "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit".

Abiding in Christ is an inner attitude that takes root in us over time. It demands space to grow. It can be overtaken by the struggle for the necessities of life and it is threatened by the distractions, noise, activity and the challenges of life.

Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Abiding in Christ, we receive the strength and wisdom to act against structures of injustice and oppression, to fully recognise ourselves as brothers and sisters in humanity, and to be creators of a new way of living, with respect for and in communion with all of creation.

#### Prayer

Holy Spirit, vivifying fire and gentle breath, come and abide in us.  
Renew in us the passion for unity so that we may live in awareness of the bond that unites us in you.  
May all who have put on Christ at their Baptism unite and bear witness together to the hope that sustains them. Amen

Due to Level 5 restrictions the annual Ecumenical Service for Unity will not take place. However some resources are available to read on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity section of the Churches Together website - <https://ctbi.org.uk/>

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Thank you for your continued generous financial support to the parish. Donation Envelopes can be left in the green box at the altar rails. We thank you for your generosity.

Sponsored By  
**Birr Town  
Football Club**

### Remembered in Mass this Week

Sun 17th	10.30 a.m.	Joseph Flynn Noreen Coolahan & son Fred
	12 noon	Ellen Guilfoyle (MM) Brian Guidera John Claffey & Claffey family Noel, Joan & Colman Corboy
Mon 18th	10.00 a.m.	Kathleen Loughnane
Thur 21st	10.00 a.m.	James McCarthy
Sat 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Jack & Madeleine Ryan, Crinkill Carmel Moore
Sun 24th	10.30 a.m.	Bea Irwin (MM) & her husband John Hogan family, Newbridge Street Rita Scully, Fortal Patricia Harding Thomas & Mary B White & daughter Maretta
	12 noon	Margaret Mongan, Kilcormac Patrick & Josephine Kelly & daughter Gail Sr. Josephine Kelly Pat O'Malley



#### Please pray for the souls of

Margaret Doyle, Croghan, Road,  
Helen McCarthy, Dock Road, Limerick,  
& late of High Street, Birr  
Fr. Gerald Grogan, Florida,  
& late of Station House, Birr

#### Fr. Gerald Grogan - an appreciation

The death of Fr. Gerald Grogan occurred on January 10th. He was the retired parish priest of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Avonpark, Florida. Gerard was the first ever ordination in Birr Parish and was ordained to the priesthood in St. Brendan's Church on September 11th 1960 by Bishop Joseph Rodgers for the diocese of Miami in the State of Florida.

Gerard was the third of seven children born in Millstreet, Cork to the late Anastasia and Michael Grogan. His father was a station master in Millstreet and transferred to Birr in 1942. A past pupil of the Presentation Brothers College he entered St. John's College Seminary to study for the priesthood. Fr. Gerard served in parishes in Coral Gardens, Fort Lauderdale, Homestead, Coco Beach and Miami. He was appointed as parish priest (pastor) of Our Lady of Grace parish in south-west Florida in 1979.

During his time at Our Lady of Grace he oversaw the expansion of the church and the building of several new facilities for the parish. Fr. Gerard has had a life long interest in education in the various parishes he was assigned to. He continued how own education taking a Masters degree from Barry University in Miami.

After his retirement in March 2007 Fr. Gerard continued to assist in parish life. He was predeceased by his brother Brendan and sister Martha last year. We extend our sympathies to his sister Eileen, Military Road and his brother Michael, Poulmagannive and all his family circle.  
*In iothlann Dé go dtugtar sinn.*

### Mother and Baby Home Report

The publication of the report into the Mother and baby Homes on Tuesday focuses again on a very dark and painful aspect of our past where kindness, respect and love were so blatantly absent in the care of vulnerable young mothers. At the heart of the Christian Gospel is the insight that we are created in the image of God - that all life is sacred and should be respected and cared for. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge our failures as a church and society to vulnerable women and their children.

#### Legacy of an Adoptive Child

Once there were two women  
Who never knew each other.  
One you do not remember,  
The other you call mother.  
Two different lives  
Shaped to make yours one.  
One became your guiding star,  
The other became your sun.

The first gave you life  
And the second taught you to live it.  
The first gave you a need for love  
And the second was there to give it.  
One gave you a nationality,  
The other gave you a name.  
One gave you a seed of talent,  
The other gave you an aim.  
One gave you emotions,  
The other calmed your fears.  
One saw your first sweet smile,  
The other dried your tears.

One gave you up -  
It was all that she could do.  
The other prayed for a child  
And God led her straight to you.  
And now you ask me  
Through your tears,  
The age-old question  
Through the years:  
Heredity or environment  
Which are you the product of?  
Neither, my darling - neither,  
Just two different kinds of love.

- Author Unknown

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The Parish Office will **NOT** be open to the public during Level 5 restrictions. Please telephone 057-9122028 to book masses. Mass cards can be ordered by telephone also. We appreciate your understanding at this time.

The monthly **St. Pio Mass** will take place behind closed doors next Thursday 21st January at 7.30 p.m. It will be available on the radio link and on Facebook "Brendan Birr".

### Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

#### Ar Scáth a Chéile.

Tá Covid -19 ag dul in olcas sa tír le déanaí ach bíodh dóchas againn. Is é an dóchas lia gach anró, a deir an seanfhocal. Ba cheart dúinn na srianta atá curtha i bhfeidhm ag an Rialtas a chleachtadh go beacht. Thug an Taoiseach Micheál Martin le fios gurb iad freagracht phearsanta agus dea-iompar daoine a choimeád-faimid saor ón gcruachás. Dúirt sé go bhféadfaí damáiste ollmhór a dhéanamh dá n-éireadh daoine faillíoch de bharr vacsaíne a bheith ar fáil anois.

Is féidir linn go léir guí go mbeidh deireadh le Covid-19 go luath. Is ansa le Dia guí ná gol. Is féidir iarraidh ar an Mhaighdean Mhuire teacht i gcabhair orainn sa phaidir seo a leanas. An Memorare.

**Cuimhnigh, a Mhaighdean Mhuire róghrámhar,  
nár chualathas trácht ar aon duine riamh  
a chuir é féin faoi do choimirce  
ná a d'iarr cabhair ort  
ná a d'impigh d'idirghuí is gur theip tú air.  
Lán de mhuinín asat, dá bhrí sin, rithimse chugat,  
a Mhaighdean na Maighdean is a Mháthair.  
Is chugatsa a thagaim,  
is os do chomhair a sheasaim,  
i mo pheacach bocht atuirseach.  
Ó a Mháthair an Aonmhic,  
ná diúltaigh do m'urnaithe  
ach éist leo go trócaireach agus  
freagair iad. Áiméan.**

#### In the Shadow of Each Other

There has been a surge in the numbers with Covid -19 in the country recently. Let us be hopeful as hope is the healer of all hardship, according to the proverb. The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin pointed out that it is personal responsibility and good behavior that will keep us safe from the adversity. He said great damage could be done if people become negligent.

Let us renew our prayer that Covid-19 will end soon. We can ask Our Lady as we recite the Memorare to come to our aid.

**Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help,  
or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.  
Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To thee do I come,  
before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.**