

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish Mobile: 087-3515294
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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 Valentine

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of St. Valentine, well known as the patron saint of lovers. He was reputed to have been a priest and physician who was martyred in or near Rome in the year 269 A.D.



One of the most important gift we can give to anyone is the gift of appreciation. Saying Thank You is really easy and everyone loves to feel appreciated.

Eight Gifts that don't cost a cent.

The Gift of Listening: But you really must listen. Don't interrupt, don't plan your response. Just Listen.

The Gift of Affection: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds.

The Gift of Laughter: Share jokes and funny stories. You are saying "I love to laugh with you".

The Gift of Solitude: There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of peace to each other.

The Gift of Favour: Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of a Written Note: This can be a simple "Thanks for the help." A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime.

The Gift of a Compliment: A simple and sincere "you look great in red", "you did a super job" or "that was a great meal" can make someone's day.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition: The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, or even just a smile.

Happy Valentine's Day

By Fr. Tom Ryan

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 13th	7.30 p.m.	Bridget Reynolds, Crinkill
Sun 14th	10.30 a.m.	Pat, May & Brendan Dwane
Mon 15th	10.00 a.m.	Patrick Connor
Tues 16th	10.00 a.m.	Nora Mary Carroll (1st Ann), Loughawn House, Dunkerrin Mary & Kieran Pilkington
Wed 17th	10.00 a.m.	Eoin Eastwood
Fri 19th	10.00 a.m.	Mary Cleary Maura & Jimmy Hayes
Sat 20th	10.00 a.m.	Michael Halvey Halvey & Leonard families
Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Philip Brady (MM) Patricia King (1st Ann) & husband John & son Seamus Michael Parnell & parents Edward & Mary Parnell, Killeen



Please pray for the souls of

Michael Connolly, Fairview,
Mary Mann, New Road,
sister of Chrissie Grimes, The Green,
Carmel, Slammon, Mount Temple, Moate,
sister of Dolores Hegarty, Cappaneale, Kieran Daly,
Cappaneale and Frieda Brophy, Sandymount.

St. Pio Mass takes place next Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. This will be celebrated behind closed doors.

We sincerely thank parishioners who have continued to make donations to St. Brendan's Parish during this current Level 5 lockdown. Donations can be made in a number of ways and are very much appreciated:

1. Parish Envelopes (Cash or Cheque) can be placed in the locked green box in St. Brendan's church beside the candelabra.
2. Set up a standing order.
3. Electronic transfer to the Birr Parish bank account - IBAN - IE40 BOFI 9016 7724 9407 77.
4. Or via the Killaloe Diocesan Website

If you have not received a box of parish envelopes please contact the Parish Office.

We would like to thank the following shops who are facilitating distribution of the newsletter:

Horan's Daybreak, John's Place, **The Store**, Carrig
Mulrooney's Gala, Roscrea Rd, **Corrib Oil Garage**,
Banagher Rd & **Loughnane's Centra**, Tullamore Rd.

Sponsored By

Curtain Design
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057-9121411

087-6313123

St. Valentine's Candle

This weekend, on the feast of Saint Valentine, February 14th we light a candle remembering all the couples who, over the past year, have had to postpone their wedding plans and others who have had to have a limited celebration of their love and commitment without significant family and friends present.

Saint Valentine, patron of young lovers, continue to inspire and encourage all couples in their love for and goodness to each other.

Next Wednesday, 17th February is **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of our Lenten journey.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be no distribution of ashes this year. However, ashes will be left in small plastic bags on the altar rails for people to take home.

Dearest Lord,
help me to honour this day
with the ashes on my forehead.
They help me remember
where I have come from
and where I am going.
May I acknowledge to you my sins
and my deep need for your
loving forgiveness and grace.
I pray that this Lenten season
will make me so much more aware
of how much I need your healing in my life.
I know how much you love me.
It's hard for me to feel it sometimes,
but I know your love is always with me.
Help me to use your love as a way
to persevere in my Lenten intentions.
I am weak, but I know with your help,
I can use these small sacrifices in my life
to draw closer to you.

Trócaire's Annual Lenten Campaign

Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Families like Awut and Ajak's in South Sudan need your support now more than ever. Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on www.trocaire.org and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways:

By collecting a Trócaire box *in our church porches*.
Online at www.trocaire.org

By phone: 1850 408 408 (The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Domhnach na Measartha.

Tá an Domhnach seo tiomnaithe do Mheasartha. Is suáilce í gur féidir linn a chleachtadh i ngach gné dár saol. Is eol dúinn go bhfuil fadhb an óil agus drugaí ag cur isteach go mór ar theaghlach. Is mór an brón agus briseadh croí a bhíonn le fulaingt dá bhrí sin. Tá plaic crochta ar an mballa in a lán de na hionaid a chuireann cóir ar andúiligh agus scríofa uirthi tá: 'Is tusa amháin atá in ann é a dhéanamh ach ní féidir leat é a dhéanamh i d'aonar'. Cuireann sé i gcuimhne dúinn freisin go gcaithfidimid cúnamh a iarraidh ar Dhia agus ar a chéile má táimid ag iarraidh alcól a úsáid go measartha. Is féidir cúnamh breise a fháil ó A.A nó Ionad Leighis nó ó Chomhairleoir.

Beidh Céadaoin an Luathrigh ar an 17 Feabhra. Is tús tréimhse an Charghais é, an daichead lá roimh an Cháisc. Iarrtar orainn cúl a thabhairt don pheaca agus grá a léiriú do Dhia agus do dhaoine eile. Cuirtear an luathreach ar ár n-éadan i gcuimhne dúinn go bhfuil an bás in ndán dúinn go léir. Ní tharlóidh sé seo i mbliana de bharr srianta Covid-19. Tá an cleachtadh seo coitianta i measc, Anglacánaigh, Liútarraigh, Meitidistigh agus Preispitéirigh. Is féidir machnamh a dhéanamh ar an bpaidir seo a leanas ón Traidisiún:

A Íosa, glan mo chroíse
Go gléghlan gach lá,
A Íosa, cuir m'intinn faoi léirsmacht do ghrá.
Déan mo smaointe go fíorghlan
agus briathra mo bhéil,
Is a Thiarna, 'Dhia dhílis,
stíúir choíche mo shaol.

Temperance Sunday

This Sunday is dedicated to Temperance. It is a virtue which we ought to practise in our lives. We know that drink and drug abuse causes serious problems, pain and suffering for many families. Many centres that treat addicts have a plaque hanging on the wall which states: "You alone can do it but you cannot do it on your own" This reminds us that we must ask help from God and from each other if we are to use alcohol moderately. Help is also available from A.A, a Treatment Centres or a Counsellor.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on Wednesday next 17 February. It is the beginning of the Lenten Season, the forty days before Easter. We are invited to turn away from sin and love God and our neighbour. The ashes on our foreheads reminds us of our mortality. Due to Covid-19 rules this will not be possible this year. Ash Wednesday is observed by many Western Christians among them Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Presbyterians. Let us reflect on the following prayer from Tradition:

Jesus, cleanse my heart each day
and make it spotless,
Jesus, rule my mind by the power of your love.
Make truly clean my thoughts
and the words of my mouth,
and, dear Lord God,