

BIRR PARISH

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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

Carrig & Riverstown Development Association is holding its Annual General Meeting virtually via zoom on Tuesday evening the 2nd March at 8.30pm. Anyone interested in attending please text your name and email address to 087 6866099.

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.

Feastdays this Week

March 1st - Feast of St. David - patron saint of Wales, where he was abbot and bishop in the sixth century. Several Irish saints were his pupils and he influenced monastic development in Ireland. He died around 601.

March 5th - Feast of St Kieran of Saigir (Seir Kieran). He was born in Cape Clear in Co Cork and is numbered among the pre-Patrician saints of Ireland. He went to the continent where he was baptised and later ordained priest and bishop. He returned to his father's territory in Ossory, where he lived as a hermit. Disciples soon joined him and Saigir (Seir Kieran) became a well known monastery.

Birr Parish App



A new app for Android phones has been developed by Jerome and Paul Mathew, Annagh for our parish and can be downloaded from the app store. Look for Birr Parish. It combines the parish website, our Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

Sponsored By

Curtain Design
The Arch, Green Street

057-9121411

087-6313123

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 27th	7.30 p.m.	Elizabeth Lally (MM) Joe Long, Cornmarket St (1st Ann) Lisa Guilfoyle, Riverstown Tommy Errity Paddy & Annie Kennedy, Fortal
Sun 28th	10.30 a.m.	Margaret Guinan (1st Ann) Elizabeth Maher Michael & Nellie Whelan & son Michael Jack & Mary Scully John Murdock Catherine Campbell
	12 noon	Josephine Nealon (1st Ann)
Mon 1st	10.00 a.m.	John Fallon (1st Ann)
Tues 2nd	10.00 a.m.	Lorraine, Celine & John McCarthy & McCarthy family
Wed 3rd	10.00 a.m.	Paddy Guinan Terry Masterson
Fri 5th	10.00 a.m.	Bridie Maher & Maher family Frank Coughlan, New Road Hunt family, Sligo
Sat 6th	7.30 p.m.	Michael & Kathleen Regan & sons Alan & David Margaret "Mossie" Kelly McMahon James & Margaret Horan, Beech Avenue Tom O'Meara, Beech Avenue Jack Roberts & Roberts family, Birr & Crinkill
Sun 7th	10.30 a.m.	Agnes Pearson Martin & Molly Carroll & sons & daughters Maureen Plunkett
	12 noon	Dick Johnston



Please pray for the souls of

Josie Mitchell, Eliza Lodge N.H. & Fortal,
Jimmy, Hogan, Green Street,
Camillus "Millo" O'Meara, Glenbeigh, Kerry
& late of Military Road, Crinkill,
Margaret Darcy, St. Kieran's NH, Rathcabbin
& Portland Lorrha,
sister of Bernadette Carroll, Crinkill,
Jim Mahon, Bunclody, father of Siobhan Carey,
Baroncourt, Carrig
John Kinsella, Northampton,
and late of High Street, Birr,
Patricia Loughnane, Kilmainham, Dublin
& late of Crinkill.
Austin Clifford, Cork,
brother of the late Matt Clifford, Burkes Hill.

Donations to Parish Funds for January 2021 (including online donations) was **€3,836**. A very sincere **thank you** for your contributions. They are very much appreciated. Donations can be left in the green box by the altar rails in St. Brendan's.

The Meaning of Lent

While we associate Lent with preparation for Easter, the word '**Lent**' actually comes from the Anglo-Saxon word **Lencten**, meaning '**spring**'. That might seem strange at first but when we think about it there is an obvious connection between spring and our preparation for Easter. While the images of spring may be of blooming flowers, spring lambs and lengthening, warmer days, none of this is instantaneous. It is a slow process of **change, growth and new beginnings** as nature turns away from the cold and harshness of winter towards the warmth and light of spring.

Our journey in Lent is a bit like that, offering us an annual opportunity, in the light and warmth of our faith, for change, growth and new beginnings. Every spring, every Lent holds the promise of a fresh start and new life; this is a time when we can honestly look at our lives and take even the simplest of steps **to turn back to and deepen our relationship with God** and allow our faith to impact who we are in the world.

In other languages the word Lent comes from the Latin, **Quadragesima**—a period of **40 days**. In the Christian tradition the forty days is understood to refer to a time of intense prayer and preparation; we remember the biblical stories of Noah and the flood of forty days, the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness and, primarily, we remember Christ's forty day fast in preparation for his ministry. Lent is our forty days of preparation to renew our baptism at Easter and to put ourselves back on track to live the life our baptism calls us to live in the everyday circumstances we find ourselves.

Lent, then, is a time of doing penance, of actively embracing the Lenten disciplines of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. None of these are ends in themselves, they are all part of the process that leads us back to God.

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
available 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

An Dara Domhnach den Charghas

Ar an dara Domhnach den Charghas, feicimid Íosa ag cur an bháis ar ceal agus an bheatha shiorraí chun solais. Cuirtear dhá mhór eachtra i scéal Íosa os ár gcomhair sna léachtaí inniu. Chuir Dia in iúl d'Abrahám go mbeadh beannacht ar a shliocht. Aithníonn formhór na gCríostaithe, Abrahám mar a n-athair. Bhí Dia dílis do gach ar gheall Sé agus sheol Sé an pobal tofa go talamh Ísrael.

Feicimid fíis eile chomh héachtach céanna. Bhí dóchas ag teastáil ó na deisceabail sular thosaigh Íosa Turas na Croise agus a Pháis. Sheol Sé, Peadar, Séamas agus Eoin suas Cnoc Tabor. Chonaic siad Íosa agus é faoi chló nua lonrach agus Maois agus Éilias in éineacht leis. Tar éis Claochlaithe ar an sliabh thuig na deisceabail nár ghnáthdhúine a bhí in Íosa. Labhair Peadar: "A Thiarna," ar seisean le hÍosa, "is maith mar tharla anseo sinn: más maith leat é, déanfaidh mé trí bhoth san áit seo, ceann duit féin, ceann do Mhaois agus ceann d'Éilias." Ní raibh siad ag súil le seo. Chuala siad glór as na sca-maill "Is é seo mo Mhac mhuirneach dár thug mé gnáoi: éistigí leis. (*Matha 17:1-5*) *Bhí eagla an domhain ar na deisceabail ach labhair Íosa leo.* "Éirígí," ar seisean; "ná bíodh eagla oraibh." Ar dhearcadh suas dóibh, ní raibh neach ar bith le feiceáil acu ach Íosa féin amháin.

Go raibh an creideamh ina údar dóchais agus síochána dúinn. A Thiarna éist linn. Áiméan.

Second Sunday of Lent

On the second Sunday of Lent we see Jesus triumph over death and promising eternal life. In the readings today, we see two major events in the life of Jesus. God makes known to Abraham that his descendants will be blessed. Most Christians recognise Abraham as their father in faith. God was faithful to all he promised and he sent the chosen people into the land of Israel.

We see another vision. The disciples needed hope from Jesus before his Passion and Death. He took Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor. He was transfigured before them in the presence of Moses and Elijah. After the Transfiguration the disciples realised that Jesus was not an ordinary person. Peter said "Lord it is good for us to be here, Let us make three tabernacles, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah. Suddenly they heard a voice "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, listen to him, (*Matthew 17:1-5*). The disciples were afraid and Jesus spoke to them "Arise" he said "and do not be afraid" On looking up they saw nobody only Jesus.

May our faith be a source of hope and peace in our lives. Lord hear us. Amen.