

## 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

### Year of St. Joseph 2021

Pope Francis is well known for his devotion to Joseph, husband of Mary, foster father of Jesus and Patron of the Universal Church. He has written a meditation on St. Joseph called "With A Father's Heart". He wanted to "share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure so close to our human experience". St. Joseph lived his life in the middle of a challenging and changing world. The only real constant in his life was his trust in God who was always true to his promise to be with us in every moment.



Pope Francis announced a "Year of St. Joseph" which will run until December 8th. Friday next, 19th March is the feast of St. Joseph. We have placed the statue of St. Joseph in a prominent place in St. Brendan's. Prayer cards are available for your personal reflection.

St. Joseph is a father who is beloved of Jesus and Mary. He is a tender and loving father. He accepts with trust that which he does not fully understand knowing that God sees the bigger picture. St. Joseph, a man of faith, hope and love.

**A Triduum of Prayer to St. Joseph - Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 10.00 a.m. Mass with Prayer to the Sleeping St. Joseph.**

*Sponsored By*  
**Curtain Design**  
 The Arch, Green Street

057-9121411 087-6313123

### Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 13th	7.30 p.m.	Tommy, Con & Liz Kennedy
Sun 14th	10.30 a.m.	Patricia Shelly Mary Tuohey Geraldine Cleary
Sun 15th	12 noon	Ann Maughan Michael Deegan
Wed 17th	10.30 a.m.	Katie Mitchell (MM) John & Frances Hoare Sr. Josephine Grimes
	12 noon	Arthur Elliot, Irishtown (1st Ann) Noel & Maureen Reedy
Fri 19th	10.00 a.m.	Margaret & Willie Hanlon, Presentation Place, their son Dick, Ashbrook Drive and grandson Frankie
Sun 21st	10.30 a.m.	Jimmy Hogan (MM) Helen Hogan



### Please pray for the souls of

Louie Grealy, Oxmantown Mall,  
 Louise O'Halloran (née Dwyer)  
 Harrow, London and late of Birr,  
 Tommy Grogan, Kinnitty,  
 Mary Flynn (nee Nugent), Cloghan  
 & late of Green Street.

### St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me,  
 Christ before me,  
 Christ behind me,  
 Christ within me,  
 Christ beneath me,  
 Christ above me,  
 Christ on my right hand,  
 Christ on my left hand,  
 Christ in my sleeping,  
 Christ in my waking,  
 Christ in the heart of all  
 who think of me,  
 Christ in the mouth of all  
 who speak to me,  
 Christ in every eye  
 that looks at me,  
 Christ in the ear  
 that listens to me.



### Birr Parish Finance

We are **very grateful** to parishioners who have continued to make donations to St. Brendan's Parish. **Donations** can be made to the parish in a number of ways:

1. Parish Envelopes (Cash or Cheque)  
 Donations can be placed in the locked green box in St. Brendan's church beside the candelabra. This box is opened daily,
2. Set up a standing order.
3. Electronic transfer to the Birr Parish bank account -  
 IBAN - IE40 BOFI 9016 7724 9407 77.

# Happy Mother's Day

The fourth Sunday in Lent is known as Laetare Sunday or Joyful Sunday. This is more popularly known as Mothering Sunday. On this day we salute all mothers - life givers, nurturers, carers, educators, healers - parents of adoptive children, aunties, sisters and grandmothers.

### Her Hands

Her hands held me gently  
 from the day I took my first breath.  
 Her hands helped to guide me  
 as I took my first step.  
 Her hands held me close  
 when the tears would start to fall.  
 Her hands were quick to show me  
 that she would take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair,  
 or straighten a wayward bow.  
 Her hands were often there to comfort  
 the hurts that didn't always show.  
 Her hands helped hold the stars in place,  
 and encouraged me to reach.  
 Her hands would clap and cheer  
 and praise when I captured them at length.

Her hands would also push me,  
 though not down or in harm's way.  
 Her hands would punctuate the words,  
 just do what I say.  
 Her hands sometimes had to discipline,  
 to help bend this young tree.  
 Her hands would shape and mould me  
 into all she knew I could be.

Her hands are now twisting with age  
 and years of work,  
 Her hand now needs my gentle touch  
 to rub away the hurt.  
 Her hands are more beautiful  
 than anything can be.  
 Her hands are the reason I am me.



### Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

#### Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

Ceiliúraimid Lá Fhéile Naomh Pádraig, Éarlaimh na hÉireann ar an gCéadaoin seo chugainn, ní hamháin in Éirinn ach ar fud an domhain mhóir. Tógadh mar sclábháí é go hAontroim áit ar chaith sé, sé bliana ag aoireacht muc. Bhí sé mar nós aige guí chun Dé céad uair sa lá agus céad uair san oíche. D'éalaigh sé go dtí an Fhrainc agus oirnóidh ina shagart é agus ina dhiaidh sin rinneadh easpag de. D'fhill sé ar Éirinn agus chraobhscaoil sé Soiscéal na Críostaíochta. Tugann an fhéile deis dúinn buíochas a ghabháil le Dia as an tseoid luachmhar seo a bhronn Naomh Pádraig orainn. Gabhaimid buíochas chomh maith dóibh siúd idir chléir agus tuath a scaip an Creideamh ar fud an domhain. Bhí Pádraig umhal de shíor i láthair Dé. Sa an *Confessio* cuireann sé é féin in aithne dúinn mar seo "Mise Pádraig, peacach róthútach, an té is lú de na firéin go léir agus an té is mó a bhfuil dímhéas ag a lán." Tugaimis ómós dó mar ba chóir. Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig ar chlann mhór dhomhanda na nGael, sa bhaile agus ar fud na cruinne, ar ár lá náisiúnta ceiliúrtha féin. Guímis Lúireach Phádraig go minic:

**Críost i gcroí gach duine a smaoiníonn orm,  
 Críost i mbéal gach duine a labhraíonn liom,  
 Críost i ngach súil a fhéachann orm,  
 Críost i ngach cluas a éisteann liom**

### St. Patrick's Day

We celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the Patron Saint of Ireland on Wednesday next. He will be honoured not only here but throughout the world. Saint Patrick was brought as a slave to Antrim where he spent six years tending pigs. He tells us he prayed to God a hundred times a day and the same at night. He escaped to France and was ordained a priest and later a bishop. He returned to Ireland and preached the Gospel of Christ to the Irish people. We remember to thank God for this precious gift on St. Patrick's feast day. We also thank God for all those who brought and still bring the Christian message to people throughout the world. Patrick was humble in the presence of God. In the *Confessio* he introduces himself "I Patrick, wretched sinner, least among men, despised by many...." Let us honour him appropriately. Happy St. Patrick's Day to Irish people everywhere in the world, on this our national feast day. Let us recite 'Lúireach Phádraig' often:

**Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me,  
 Christ in every eye that sees me,  
 Christ in every ear that hears me.**