

## 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

### Daffodil Day 2021.

Daffodil Day takes place on Friday next 26th March, we can't take to the streets to raise funds this year but you can donate on line to the Birr Daffodil Day "JustGiving" page <http://www.justgiving.com/birr-daffodil-day> or there are donation stations in the local Post Office on Main Street and in Crinkill. It is your generosity that supports cancer patients and their families on their journey with ongoing services. Thank you.

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### Catholic Young Adult Conference 2021

Now, after a year of CoVid, we are more and more conscious of the weight of the restrictions... and moreover the finishing line seems like a mirage always moving farther and farther away from us! The Catholic Young Adult Conference via Zoom on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 7:30pm is a chance for young adults (18 - 40) wherever they are to come together online to build up their hope. The theme "Hope Springs Eternal" will be discussed in a great line up of short talks and testimonies mixed together with music and prayer. The Conference is free to attend just log in to Zoom: ID 847 1984 5205 Passcode: 771328. Whatever about an injection for CoVid, come and get a powerful injection of hope! Newcomers especially welcome.

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### Today

If ever there were a spring day so perfect, so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze that it made you want to throw open all the windows in the house and unlatch the door to the canary's cage, indeed, rip the little door from its jamb, a day when the cool brick paths and the garden bursting with peonies seemed so etched in sunlight that you felt like taking a hammer to the glass paperweight on the living room end table, releasing the inhabitants from their snow-covered cottage so they could walk out, holding hands and squinting into this larger dome of blue and white, well, today is just that kind of day.

By Billy Collins

### Remembered in Mass this Week

Sun 21st	10.30 a.m.	Jimmy Hogan (MM) Josephine Mitchell (MM) Helen Hogan
	12 noon	William, Teresa & Donie Hanley Ann Pey Hanley & Pey families
Wed 24th	10.00 a.m.	May Tierney
Sat 27th	7.30 p.m.	Doreen Horan (1st Ann) & husband Kieran
Sun 28th	10.30 a.m.	Kennedy & Middleton families Margaret, Edward & Michael Grogan
	12 noon	Christy & Nora Cleary Tommy Pey



### Preparing for Sacraments 2021

Parents and young people for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are invited to participate in a meeting online. You need to register before the day.

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FAMILIES

The Webinar for First Holy Communion takes place on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.00 pm. In order to join you need to register using the following link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zN\\_POulATymoz\\_Vz9ZWF3q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zN_POulATymoz_Vz9ZWF3q)

#### NOTICE FOR CONFIRMATION FAMILIES

The Webinar for Confirmation takes place on Wednesday, March 24th at 7.00 pm. In order to join you need to register using the following link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SHRbJhzmQ8y3O0mSPFpTOQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SHRbJhzmQ8y3O0mSPFpTOQ)

### Birr Parish Finance

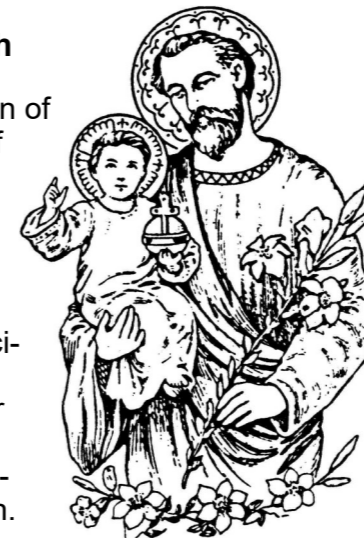
We are very grateful to parishioners who have continued to make donations to St. Brendan's Parish. Donations can be made to the parish in a number of ways:

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.

### Year of St. Joseph 2021

#### Prayer to St. Joseph

Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his son. In you, Mary placed her trust. When you were faced with difficult decisions you listened for the spirit to guide your response. Be with us and guide us as we invoke your intercession.



When life throws up unexpected challenges give to us a renewal of faith and deepening of hope so enabling us to bear witness to faithfulness, love and peace.

St. Joseph, father of orphans and protector of vulnerable people, patron of workers and all who have been forced to leave their native lands. Be with us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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Next Thursday, 25th March, is the Feast of The Annunciation of Our Lord, the day we remember the invitation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary to be the Mother of Jesus.

#### The Annunciation

Cast from afar before the storms were born  
And rain had rinsed the darkness for colour,  
The words have waited for the hunger in her  
To become the silence where they could form.

The day's last light frames her by the window,  
A young women with distance in her gaze.  
She could never imagine the surprise  
That is hovering over her life now.

The sentence awakens like a raven,  
fluttering and dark,  
Opening her heart to nest the voice  
That first whispered the earth,  
From dream into wind, stone, sky and ocean,

She offers to mother the shadow's child,  
Her untouched life becoming wild inside.

By John O'Donohue

#### Prayer

Lord within me there is a new spark of life.  
With this new life  
you have given me the gift of motherhood.  
You have chosen me  
to be the mother of this child.  
Help me to say, like Mary: "Be it done unto me".

Alethea Hayton- Prayer in Pregnancy

### Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

#### An Cúigiú Domhnach den Charghas.

Inniu an cúigiú Domhnach den Charghas. Tá an séasúr beannaithe ag teacht chun deireadh agus an tSeachtain Mhór ag druidim níos gaire dúinn.

Bhí Gréagaigh a tháinig ag iarraidh Íosa a fheiceáil. Tá gach ní atá i gceist sa Charghas agus sa bheatha Chríostaí le fáil san iarratas sin – Íosa a fheiceáil. De réir an tSoiscéil, tá Íosa le feiceáil sa ghráinne arbhair a thiteann go talamh agus a fhaigheann bás, is é sin, Íosa féin ag fáil bháis ar an gCros.

Sa chéad léacht, tá Iarimí fáidh ag súil le conradh nua a dhéanfadh Dia le hIosrael. In ionad a bheith scríofa ar leac mar a bhí sa chonradh a rinne Dia le Maois, beidh an conradh nua scríofa ag Dia ar chroíthe na ndaoine. Tuigimid ón Soiscéal go ndearna Dia an conradh nua seo linn in Íosa, agus go bhfuil an bás i gceist: bás Íosa féin, agus muid ag fáil bháis chomh maith d'ár dtoil féin.

Is é Íosa ar an gCros an sampla is fearr den fhéinsmacht. Labhair Íosa go minic faoin smacht mar bhás. Tugann an Carghas seans dúinn an smacht a chleachtadh le go mbeimis dírithe níos mó ar an smacht ar chuir Íosa ar féin ar son na Ríochta, agus le go mbeimis páirteach i dtorthaí na Croise leis.

#### Fifth Sunday of Lent

This is the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The holy season is coming to an end and Holy Week is approaching.

There were Greeks who came to Jesus wanting to see him. Everything involved in Lent and in the Christian life is to be found in this request. That is to see Jesus. According to the Gospel, Jesus is seen in the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies, that is, Jesus himself was crucified and died on the Cross.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah anticipates a new covenant that God would make with Israel. Instead of being written on a slab as in God's covenant with Moses, God will write the new covenant in the hearts of people. We understand from the Gospel that God made this new covenant with us in Jesus, and that death is at stake: the death of Jesus himself, while we are also dying to our own will.

Jesus dying on the cross is the best example of that self-control. Jesus often spoke of discipline as death. Lent gives us a opportunity to exercise discipline so that we may be more focused on the discipline that Jesus placed on himself for the Kingdom, and so that we may share in the fruits of his Cross.

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