

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

The **Vincent de Paul shop** is currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, they can be contacted on **085-8804028** in emergencies.

New Construction Studies Programme will commence at Banagher FET Centre on the 19th of April 2021. Modules include: Concreting, Floor and Wall, Tiling MIG Welding and NZEB Awareness and Safe Pass Training. A training allowance is payable where applicable. For further details you can contact: (M) 085 8016195 or 085 8051912

Offaly Personal Assistant Services are currently recruiting for **Personal Assistants** in Social Care in Tullamore, Banagher and Portlaoise. The service provides support for people with disabilities in the community, assisting them with activities of daily living. This is a Community Employment position which will allow eligible candidates to gain both training and experience in the disability services. Please contact: Roisin Kennedy, CE Supervisor, Offaly Personal Assistant Services on 085 8050539 or roisin@ocil.ie for further information.



Colour Me

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 27th	7.30 p.m.	Doreen Horan (1st Ann) & husband Kieran Tom & Denis Ryan Joe & Maura Kennedy
Sun 28th	10.30 a.m.	Kennedy & Middleton families Margaret, Edward & Michael Grogan
	12 noon	Christy & Nora Cleary Tommy Pey Eugene Garvey
Mon 29th	10.00 a.m.	Ned Flynn & son John
Tues 30th	10.00 a.m.	Austin Clifford (MM)
Wed 31st	10.00 a.m.	Kitty McManus
Sun 4th	10.30 a.m.	Martin McCarthy (MM) Bill O'Meara & family Johnny Ryan, McAuley Drive Mary Sheils Celia Hart Har & Bridget Naylor & son Harry
	12 noon	Joe Kennedy, Tullamore Road Michael & Ellie O'Connor

Please Pray for the Souls of



Mary Ellen Feenane, Fortal, Birr
 Aleksandr Umbrasas, Camcor House, Birr
 Sheelah Mongey, Canada,
 sister of Monica Haines Green Street,
 Tess Ryan, Castleconnell,
 sister of Nancy Buckley, Military Road,
 Mary McEvoy, Portlaoise,
 sister-in-law of Christine McEvoy, Presentation Place,
 Mary Gallagher, Killaloe and late of High Street, Birr,
 sister of Frankie, High Street
 & Nellie, Presentation Place.

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 candleabra. 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.

Sponsored By
Curtain Design
 The Arch, Green Street

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Thanks

One day I sat down and relaxed and went back over the last year: I thought of all I could be grateful for - people I met who helped me, people I love and who love me, the times someone seemed to care. And I was grateful too for times I could help another, show some care, and make life that bit easier and safer for family, friends, colleagues and all I contact.

And I thought of health and faith, for having food on my table and enough to live on.

Problems and worries came to mind too: the worries of others and my faults and failings, but in the atmosphere of thanks they seem less intense.

And I know I could go back over the years and say thanks too, like a river of thanks flowing by as I sit and enjoy the memories and feel the thanks.

Thanks - a word that brings us alive, for what once was can always give life.

Thanks - a word that keeps us humble, for we know that we depend on others.

Thanks - a word that keeps us joyful for we know that in every day there are the meetings and the memories, the help and the support, given and received, which are the seeds of life and growth.

May we be people who are truly grateful to others and to God for what makes life worthwhile.

Remember this day, remember last week.
 Remember all times and be grateful.

Author Unknown

Bishop Fintan Monahan's Easter Pastoral Letter, titled "*Let Hope Shape Our Future*" is available in full on the Killaloe Diocesan Website. It is a reflection on pastoral planning for a post-pandemic Church and the following are the summary points of his letter:

- Covid-19 has radically changed our lives and Church.
- Familiar faith practices have been greatly disrupted.
- We look forward to returning to a more acceptable form of normal.
- Our Church is in a time of profound change.
- The Church to which we shall return will be very different.
- What sort of Church do you want that to be?
- How will that Church be resourced?
- Do you want to be part of shaping that new reality?
- I invite you to join me in the Diocese of Killaloe on that new journey.
- As Easter people we are people of joy and this gives us hope to live and share that joy with future generations.

Link to the full letter is on <https://www.killaloediocese.ie/easter-letter-let-hope-shape-our-future/>

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Domhnach na Páise/Domhnach na Pailme

Inniu díríonn an Eaglais ár n-aire ar Pháis Chríost, a léiríonn an mórghrá a bhí ag Íosa ár Slánaitheoir dúinn agus a mhúsclaíonn aithrí inár gcroí mar gheall ar ár bpeacaí. Cuirtear tús leis an tSeachtain Mhór inniu mar atá Domhnach na Pailme, Céadaoin an Bhraith, Déardaoin Mandála, Aoine an Chéasta agus an Satharn Naofa. Ar Dhomhnach na Pailme, bhí áthas ar na daoine Íosa a fheiceáil ar a bhealach go Cathair Iarúsailéim. Leath cuid acu a mbrait ar an talamh roimhe. Bhain cuid acu craobha-cha na gcraon. Na sluaite a bhí á leanúint, bhí siad ag scairteadh in ard a gcinn: "Is beannaithe an té atá ag teacht in ainm an Tiarna. Hósanna sna harda". A mhalairt ar fad a bheadh le cloisteáil roimh dheireadh na seachtaine nuair a bheadh an daoscarshlua ag béiceadh, 'Céastar É'. 'Céastar É'. Ghlac Íosa ár gcuid peacaí air féin sa Pháis agus léirigh Sé a ghrá dúinn ar Chalvarie. Is féidir an phaidir seo a rá i rith na Seachtaine Móire:

Le bás na croise cheannaigh tú sliocht mífhortúnach Éabha. Ó shin anuas is beannaithe an comhartha seo dár naomhú. Áiméan. (Ár bPaidreacha Dúchais.)

Arís i mbliana caithfidh fanacht sa bhaile agus páirt a ghlacadh sna deabhóidí ar an gCeamara Gréasáin nó ar Straoisleabhar Beo. Nuair nach féidir linn Comaoineach a ghlacadh, is féidir linn an phaidir seo a rá:

A Íosa, creidim go daingean go bhfuil tú i láthair sa Naomhshacraimint. Tá grá agam duit os cionn gach uile ní agus is mian liom tú a ghlacadh isteach im' anam. O tharla nach féidir liom tú do ghlacadh anois sa Naomhshacraimint, tar ar a laghad go spioradálta isteach im' chroí. Tar chugam mar sin, a Thiarna, agus méadaigh do ghrásta ionam. Ná lig dom scaradh leat go brách. Moladh go deo leat, a Iosa sa Naomhshacraimint. Áiméan.

Palm Sunday

Today the Church invites us to reflect on the Passion of Christ which shows the great love Jesus, Our Saviour had for us and inspires us to repent of our sins. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week which includes Spy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On Palm Sunday people were delighted to see Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. Some spread their cloaks on the ground before Him while others had palms in their hands shouting, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest." Before the end of the week many were shouting, 'Crucify Him'. 'Crucify Him'. Jesus took our sins unto Himself and showed His love for us on Calvary. We can say this prayer during Holy Week:

By your Death on the Cross, you redeemed the unfortunate children of Eve. Blessed ever since is the sign of our sanctification. Amen.

Again this year, we have to stay at home and take part in the ceremonies on Webcam or Facebook Live. We can make the following Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen

Psalm Sunday

28th March 2021

First Reading **Isaiah 50:4-7** *A reading from Isaiah*

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **Ps. 21:8-9,17-20,23-24**

R.) **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
"He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend. (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons. (R.)

Second Reading **Philippians 2:6-11** *A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians*

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,

even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

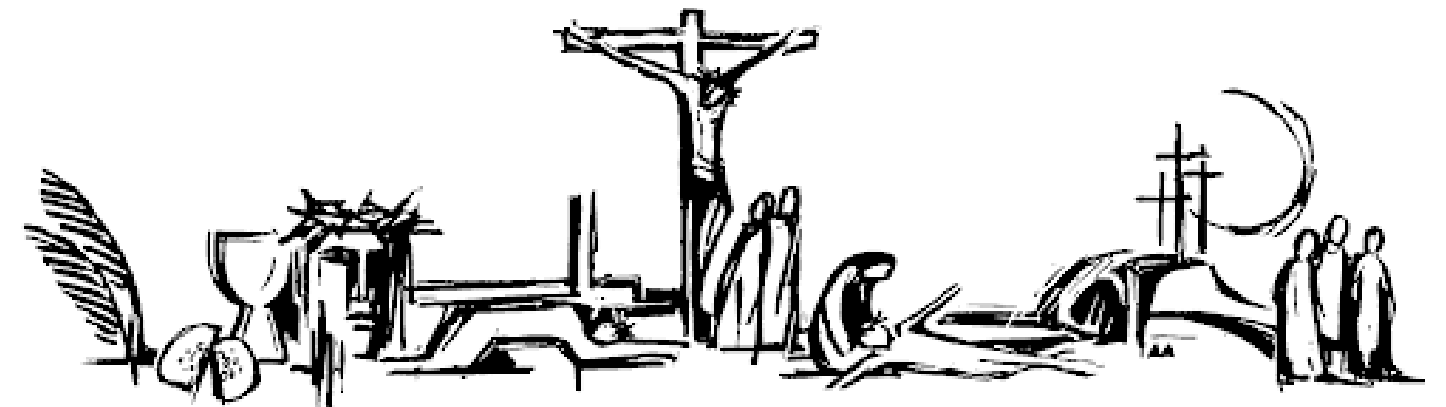
The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Christ was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name which is above all names.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel **Mark 11:1-10**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark
When they drew near to Jerusalem,
to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them,
'Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately as you enter it
you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat;
untie it and bring it.
If any one says to you,
"Why are you doing this?" say,
"The Lord has need of it
and will send it back here immediately."
And they went away,
and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street;
and they untied it.
And those who stood there said to them,
'What are you doing, untying the colt?'
And they told them what Jesus had said;
and they let them go.
And they brought the colt to Jesus,
and threw their garments on it;
and he sat upon it.
And many spread their garments on the road,
and others spread leafy branches
which they had cut from the fields.
And those who went before
and those who followed cried out,
'Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom
of our father David that is coming!
Hosanna in the highest!'

The Gospel of the Lord



Holy Week 2021

Today's Gospel from St. Mark captures the elation of the crowds who welcome Jesus in Jerusalem. They spread greenery on the road in front of him, they lift their voices in praise, singing 'Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!' But their hope and loyalty is short-lived, as we discover in our reading of the Passion. Jesus is left almost alone to face humiliation and death. His followers have heard his radical message of reversal and upheaval, but when it comes down to it, the challenge is too much. We are told 'they all deserted him and ran away'. While Peter follows Jesus at a distance, he is soon denying he even knows him. Soon, the crowds are shouting for Jesus to be crucified.

We are very familiar with the Passion Gospel and it can be tempting to allow ourselves to tune out, particularly when it comes to the unpleasant parts. We do not like to think of ourselves as part of the mob shouting 'Crucify him!' Yet if we enter fully into the experience, we can see ourselves in the story. When things are going well, it is easy to praise God and shout 'Hosanna!', and promise we will not lose faith. There are other times we fall asleep, become complacent. And then there are days when we struggle, when we are confused or do not know what God expects of us or whether we are able to handle the difficult times. We pull away from God. The different disciples display this range of human reactions and emotions. This week, Holy Week, we are the disciples walking with Jesus on a journey that leads to the cross. And yet here at the cross, we find Mary Magdalene and the other women, and Joseph of Arimathea. We know the story is not over for these disciples, or for Peter and the others. The journey of discipleship is just beginning.

Although our churches are closed, **Holy Week celebrations** will take place, albeit behind closed doors. They will be broadcast on FM Radio and on Facebook (Brendan Birr).

The schedule for this coming week, Holy Week is as follows:

Holy Thursday	10.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Morning Prayer Our Lord's Supper
Good Friday	10.00 a.m. 12 noon 3.00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Stations of the Cross Solemn Liturgy
Holy Saturday	10.00 a.m. 9.00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	10.30 a.m. 12 noon	Mass Mass

