

BIRR PARISH

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

Saint Ruadhan of Lorrha was seven feet tall and counted among the twelve Apostles of Ireland. It is believed that the first time the Cuckoo song would be heard was on his feast day, April 15th.

The old people said "The cuckoo comes in April, lays her eggs in May. In leafy June she changes her tune and in July she flies away."

The cuckoo is a migratory bird that lives in North Africa and migrates to these shores for summer breeding.

St. Ruadhan is remembered as someone filled with the love of God from infancy. He had a particular love for lepers and for the infirm.

Level 7 Diploma in Spirituality – Applied Youth Ministry and Facilitation

This is an online course accredited by St. Patrick's College, Maynooth that runs from September to April. Delivered online, students view lecturers and live e-tutorial sessions, access readings, ask questions, engage in discussions and complete assignments online. The course is designed with flexibility in mind, enabling the student to balance study with work and family commitments. The practical element will comprise the on-line planning and delivery of four youth retreats/parish reflective youth experiences. The skills are transferable to other situations. Training for this is included in the course.

This course is for anyone interested in the spiritual and human development of young people, including parents, teachers, school chaplains and youth workers in parish ministry.

Cost €1,500 (Payable in two instalments). **Limited number of grants available** towards cost if enquiries made before end of April. Initial deposit €100 (only refundable if not accepted onto the course)

For further information please contact Kathleen 086 8608966. Also see www.shekinah.ie.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 17th	7.30 p.m.	James "Jim Bob" Donoghue Jack O'Keeffe
Sun 18th	10.30 a.m.	Gerry Smyth, Glebe Street Shaw family, Connaught Street
	12 noon	Mary Ellen Feenane (MM) James "Dino" Martin (1st Ann)
Sat 24th	10.00 a.m.	Gregory Keighery
Sun 25th	10.30 a.m.	John Kennedy, his son John & mother Mary, Cornmarket Street
	12 Noon	Margaret Lawlor, New Road Windsor, Corcoran & Smyth families



Please Pray for the Souls of

**Herbert Hennessy, Seffin,
Margaret Gleeson, Salthill,
sister of Ann Clifford, Burkes Hill.**

Trócaire

We acknowledge Trócaire contributions for the Lenten Appeal. To date **€3,708** has been received. You can drop your Trócaire boxes into the Sacristy each morning between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. Many thanks.

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.

Parish Donations during the month of **March** was **€4,249**. We are very grateful for your continued support.

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

**"What you are is God's gift to you,
what you become is your gift to God."**

— Hans Urs von Balthasar,

Sponsored By

Anonymously

Easter

E is for **Eucharist**, the Christian sacrament celebrating the Lord's last supper.
A is for **Altar** which was used to celebrate the last meal for Jesus before he died for us on Good Friday.
S is for **Supper**, the last meal Jesus celebrated with the 12 Apostles.
T is for **Tomb**, where Jesus was laid to rest.
E is for **Eternal** which means in dying we are born to eternal life.
R is for **Risen**, Jesus has risen from the dead

My God Is Weak

My God is not a God who is hard, unreachable, insensible, stoical, and incapable of suffering.

My God is weak. He is a member of my race. And I of His.

My God experienced human joy, friendship, the delights of earth and everything in it.

My God was hungry and tired and sleepy. My God felt things.

My God was nursed at the breast of His mother and felt and drank in all the tenderness of a woman.

My God loved everything human: things and men, bread and womanhood, the good and the sinners

My God was a person of His time. He dressed like everybody else, He spoke the language of His native land, He worked with His hands.

My God died young because He was sincere. They killed Him because, in their eyes, He was betraying the truth.

But my God died without hating anyone. He died excusing His killers, which is even greater than forgiving them.

My God is weak but HE conquered death. And from His hands sprang a new flower - resurrection.

So many people find it hard to accept my weak God, my God who weeps, my God who does not defend Himself!

It is hard for them to accept my God abandoned by God. My God who had to die in order to triumph. My God who made a thief, a criminal, the first canonized saint of His Church. My young God who died accused of being a political agitator.

It is difficult to accept my weak God; my God who suffered the sting of temptation; who sweated blood before accepting His Father's will.

My weak God is difficult to accept for those who go on dreaming about a God who is not like human-kind. In fact you cannot understand my God at all unless you understand **LOVE**.

By Juan Arias

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

An Tríú Domhnach den Cháisc.

Inniu an tríú Domhnach den Cháisc. Sa soiscéal inniu, tá na deisceabail cruinnithe le chéile agus sheas Íosa ina measc. Bhí scean an domhain orthu. Ach chuir Íosa ar a suaimhneas iad. Mhínigh sé dóibh go bhfuair sé bás ar an gcros ionas go mbeadh aithrí agus maithiúnas peacaí ar fáil dúinne

Is minic nach n-aithnímidne Íosa inár saol. Bíonn Críost aiséirithe in éineacht linn de shíor. Ba cheart dúinn éis-teacht go humhail lena bhriathar trí mheán na Scrioptúir. Is féidir linn ceacht a fhoghlaim ó Cleophas agus a chompánach. Chuir siad fáilte roimh an strainséir. Leag na Ceiltigh an-bhéim ar fháilte a chur roimh an strainséir ina saol laethúil. Is cuid dár n-oidhreacht é gur fiú machnamh air sa saol nua-aimseartha seo in Éirinn. An tseachtain seo cuireadh roinnt de na srianta Covid - 19 ar ceal. I laethanta seo na paidéime tá go leor daoine faoi bhrú agus uaigneach. Leanaimis ar aghaidh ag guí go mbeidh deireadh leis an víreas go luath. Is féidir an paidir seo a rá go laethúil. A Íosa oscail cumhacht Do Bhriathar sna Scrioptúir dúinn ar son ár leasa spioradálta. Áiméan

A Íosa Críost, thaistil tú trí bhailte agus sráidbhailte ag cur cóir leighis ar gach galar agus ag freastal ar dhaoine breoite. Tar i gcabhair orainn anois agus cuir cosc ar leathadh domhanda an choróinvíreas agus tú ag léiriú do ghrá dúinn. Leighis iad siúd atá tinn de bharr an víris. Go raibh a neart agus a sláinte acu trí chúram leighis ardchaighdeán. Saor sinn ón eagla a chuireann cosc ar náisiúin oibríú le chéile agus ar chomharsa cabhrú lena chéile. Áiméan.

Third Sunday of Easter

Today is the third Sunday of Easter. In today's gospel the disciples are together in a room and Jesus stood in their midst. They were frightened but Jesus put their minds at rest. He explained to them that he had suffered and died so that they and all of us might have repentance and forgiveness of sin in his name. We often fail to recognise Jesus in our lives. The resurrected Christ is always with us. We should listen humbly to his word in the Scriptures. We can learn a lesson from Cleophas and his companion. They welcomed the stranger. The Celts placed great emphasis on welcoming the stranger into their daily lives. It is part of our heritage that is worth reflecting on in this modern world in Ireland. This week some of the restrictions of Covid -19 were set aside. Many people are stressed and lonely. Let us continue to pray that the virus will soon end. This prayer can be said daily.

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At your command, the sick people were made well. Come to our aid now, as the coronavirus spreads worldwide, so that we may experience your healing love. May the sick regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another. Amen.