

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

Why God Made Teachers

When God created teachers,
 He gave us special friends
 To help us understand His world
 And truly comprehend
 The beauty and the wonder
 Of everything we see,
 And become a better person
 With each discovery.

When God created teachers,
 He gave us special guides
 To show us ways in which to grow
 So we can all decide
 How to live and how to do
 What's right instead of wrong,
 To lead us so that we can lead
 And learn how to be strong.

Why God created teachers,
 In His wisdom and His grace,
 Was to help us learn to make our world
 A better, wiser place.

By Kevin William Huff

Congratulations to Ronan Loughnane, John's Place, on his selection on the Ireland Under-20 rugby team. Ronan is the son of Adeline and Barry and is a past pupil of St. Brendan's Community School and the Cistercian College, Roscrea. He has played a key role in Ireland's recent international matches.

Sponsored By

Anonymous

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Peter McEvoy
Sun 4th	10.30 a.m.	Stephen Tierney Patricia Pilkington
	12 noon	John Kearns, Oxmantown Mall
Tues 6th	10.00 a.m.	Margaret McCarthy Greene, Ryan & Kinsella families
Fri 9th	10.00 a.m.	Christina Lally (1st Ann) Michael Tuohey
Sat 10th	7.30 p.m.	James & Eileen Ryan
Sun 11th	10.30 a.m.	Bernard & Colin Russell William Egan, Cree
	12 noon	Fr. Tony Cahir, PP

Please Pray for the Souls of



Gerry Burns, London & late of John's Mall,
 Paddy Cleary, Kilnamanagh
 & late of Rock Lane,
 Denis "Dinny" Duffy, Rathcabbin
 & late of Westgate,
 father of Dervla Kirwan, Eden.



Sleeping St. Joseph Fridge Magnets

Pope Francis has promoted devotion to the Sleeping Saint Joseph. Joseph, while he was asleep was visited by the Holy Spirit in his dreams when making difficult decisions in his life. So Pope Francis puts his prayer request under the image of the Sleeping St. Joseph when he is going to sleep in the evening time. The next day he will revisit the presenting issue with fresh insight.

Fridge Magnets of Sleeping St. Joseph
 are now on sale in the Parish Office and after Mass.

€3.00 each or 2 for €5.00. All proceeds to Birr Parish.

Birr Parish Finance

Donations can be made to the parish in a number of ways - via Parish Envelopes, set up a standing order or via electronic transfer to the Birr Parish bank account - IBAN - IE40 BOFI 9016 7724 9407 77.

Parish Donations during the month of **June** was **€5,538**. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Farewell to Fr. Pat Gilbert

On Wednesday Bishop Fintan announced his clerical changes for the Diocese of Killaloe, These changes impact on Birr Parish and the Brendan Cluster of parishes with the retirement of Fr, Pat Gilbert as school chaplain to St. Brendan's Community School. Fr. Pat is undertaking a sabbatical for a year with a view to returning to pastoral ministry in the Diocese in 2022.

Fr. Pat will be greatly missed. He has been central to the lives and families of so many whilst serving in the role of school chaplain for 32 years. He has celebrated the joyful moments with the marriages of so many of his past students and the baptising of their children.

His enthusiasm and love of sports and music enabled him to make many connections. In his school role as a teacher he had a profoundly positive influence, nurturing the faith and religious formation of our young people. Fr. Pat has been there for the painful and sad occasions bringing solace and hope. His wise and reflective counsel has been a great light and strength to so many,

We wish him every blessing on the next stage of his journey. May he have continued good health and inner serenity. We thank him for his work and ministry as a good and faithful priest here in Birr Parish and with sadness bid him farewell.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation Ceremonies

Following on from Government and NEPHET announcements on Tuesday it is with sadness that our parish celebrations of the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion have to be postponed. We are not in a position to set new dates until after July 19th pending further government announcements. These events are special family occasions and we know of the sadness of the young people involved. Please God we will be in a position to celebrate these sacraments by the end of the summer.

Cemetery Masses take place in Carrig on Thursday 8th July and in Clonoghill on Thursday 22nd July. Masses on both evenings will begin at 7.30pm.

Well done to the **volunteers** who did a great **clean-up** of the old **Clonoghill graveyard** recently, collecting several bags of litter and rubbish. We **thank** all the volunteers who have undertaken this work on behalf of the community.

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Mí lúil

Mí lúil, mí an fhéir thirim, mí na laethanta saoire, mí imeacht na gcuaich, críoch an tSamhraidh. I mí lúil bí linn, A Thiarna. Is í intinn an Phápa don mhí seo ná: Guímis, má tharlaíonn in aighneas sóisialta, eacnamaíochta nó polaitiúla sinn, go mbeirimid inár n-ailtirí cróga agus paiseanta i mbun comhráite agus cairdis.

Gabhaimid buíochas le Dia as an dea-aimsir a bhí againn le tamall anuas. Tá súil go mbeidh a thuilleadh teaspach againn sa mhí seo. Táimid fós faoi bhagairt ag an víreas corónach cé go bhfuil laghdú ar líon na ndaoine atá ag fulaingt dá bharr. Is mó vacsaín atá ar fáil anois agus le cúnamh Dé cuirfear deireadh a leis an bpaindéim go luath amach anseo, agus beidh seans againn go léir filleadh ar ghnáthshaol.

Deir Feidhmeannach na Seirbhíse Sláinte agus an Rialtas go gcaithfidh an pobal a bheith airdeallach i gcónaí. Is é freagracht phearsanta agus dea-iompar daoine a choimeádfaimid saor ón gcruachás. Leanaimis ar aghaidh ag guí go gcuirfidh Dia deireadh leis an bpaindéim sar i bhfad. Is paidir í seo ón Ár bPaidreacha Dúchais in aghaidh na plá:

A Rí na n-aingeal agus A Bhanríon na ngrást, de bhrí í bheith 'na Maighdean, do bhí mar atá, ó a Eoin Baiste do rinne do sheirbhís i dtráth, cuirimid ár n-achainí chun an triúr sin sinn do shaoradh ar an bplá. Áiméan.

Month of July

July the month of haymaking, holidays, the departure of the cuckoo, the end of Summer. Lord, be with us during this month. The Pope's intention for July is: We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

We thank God for the recent beautiful weather we have had with glorious sunshine each day. May it continue. The Corona Virus still poses a threat, though the number afflicted has diminished. More vaccines are available now and please God the pandemic will end soon, and we will be able to return to normal life.

The Health Service Executive and the Government say that the public must continue to be vigilant because the virus continues to be a threat. Personal responsibility and proper behaviour will keep us safe. Let us continue to ask God to end the pandemic. We can recite this prayer from *Ár bPaidreacha Dúchais* for protection from a plague.

O King of the Angels and Queen of graces, you were a virgin all your life, O John the Baptist who did your duty at all times, we entreat you, three to save us from the plague. Amen.