

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish Mobile: 087-3515294
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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

The Parish Office is closed for Christmas until Monday 4th January.

With the move to **Level 5** restrictions from **December 26th** our masses will be said behind closed doors. However, they will be streamed on Facebook "Brendan Birr" and will be available over the radio link.

The church will be closed during mass times but will be open for private prayer. We ask that you observe the seating guidelines and sanitise your hands before entering the church.

During these restrictions Mass will be said each morning, Monday to Saturday at 10.00 a.m. Vigil mass will be celebrated on Saturday evenings at 7.30 p.m. and Sunday masses will be said at 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. Intentions for Carrig and the 8.30 a.m. will be said at the 10.30 a.m. mass.

St Brendan's Ministers of the Word - new rotas are available for collection at the back of the altar.

In these times of Government lockdown and restrictions on attendances at public masses, many people who are unable to attend church services are interested in contributing to the support of their parish or their priests. Sincere thanks to all our parishioners who have contributed during this time. It is now possible to make a contribution by credit or debit card directly to your parish using the Diocesan Website - www.killaloe-diocese.ie. The full contribution as received by the Diocesan website will be fully paid to your parish. Simply go to the Diocesan Website and click on the red "Donate to your Parish" button on the top of the page. You will be invited to select your parish and the parish fund you wish to contribute to. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Last Week's Donations - Many Thanks
Parish Donations - €2,345**

Donation Envelopes can be left in the green box at the altar rails. We thank you for your continued support at this time.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 26th	7.30 p.m.	Sarah Nugent John Nolan Willie Joe, Seamus & Maureen Mahon & family
Sun 27th	10.30 a.m.	Pauline & Peter O'Meara Paddy & Sheila O'Callaghan Ollie, Ethna & Kieran McCarthy John, Mollie & Eileen Dermody Denis Byrne & family, Tinnakelly Bridget Sheeran, William Street Dunne & Aherne families
	12 noon	Mary Kearns (MM) Patrick & Bernadette Troy Maura & Mick Daly & son Michael Tom McInerney & parents Jimmy & Els
Mon 28th	10.00 a.m.	Cassidy & Flaherty families
Tues 29th	10.00 a.m.	Michael Delaney, Burkes Hill
Wed 30th	10.00 a.m.	Collins & Carmody families
Thur 31st	10.00 a.m.	Michael & Annie Duffy & daughter Teresa
Sat 2nd	7.30 p.m.	May O'Keefe Agnes Pardy Bridget Fogarty Evan Hogan Anne & John Sherlock
Sun 3rd	10.30 a.m.	Denis Guinan Mary "May" Carroll, Roscrea
	12 noon	Geraldine Bergin, Emmet Street Geoff Liffey

Friday 1 January is the **Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** and we celebrate our annual **Mass of Peace** at 10.00 a.m.

Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
—St. Francis of Assisi

Sponsored By

Anonymous

Happy New Year

A sincere **Thank You** to all who donated to our **Christmas Priests' Collection** last weekend. Your generosity to this collection is very much appreciated. Envelopes can be left in the green box at the altar rails.

Buíochas

This has been a most challenging year - a year like no other in our experience. We want to acknowledge the tremendous work of so many people in the parish which have enabled our churches to be safe places for gathering and worship.

We acknowledge the work of St. Brendan's Environmental Group under the leadership of Liam Moran. We thank all who help in a spiritual way with out liturgies in St. Brendan's and in The Church of the Annunciation - the Liturgy Group, Altar Servers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers.

A particular word of thanks to Nell Doorley our sacristan and all who help in the sacristy.

We acknowledge our collectors, envelope distributors, area representatives, counters and finance committee.

We thank the groups who keep our churches neat, clean and tidy each week.

We thank Joan Hogan and Helena Kennedy who lead the Parish Sacramental Programme. We thank the teachers in our primary schools who make such a contribution in handing on the faith. We acknowledge the vital role of the schools' Boards of Management.

A special word of thanks to our Parish Choirs under the direction of Gerry Dolan, Kathrena Ryan-Hoctor and Carmel Campbell and Enda O'Connor, Mike Davis and Carmel Campbell our organists.

We thank Emer our Parish Secretary and Ann our housekeeper and the scores of people who through their generosity of time and talent, voluntarily make our Parish a vibrant and welcoming community.

Fr. Antony, Fr. Pat & Fr. Tom

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Féile an Teaghlaigh Naofa.
Inniu ceiliúránn an Eaglais Féile an Teaghlaigh Naofa. "Agus d'fhás an leanbh agus neartaigh, é lán d'eagna; agus bhí grásta Dé ina luí air" (Lúcás 2:40.). Ba bhall de chlann é Iosa Críost. D'fhás sé aníos faoi chúram Muire agus Iosaef i Nasaireit. Chuir an Teaghlach Naofa a muinín i nDia agus lean siad a thoil agus chuir siad i gcríoch é ina iomláine. Tugann an Fhéile seo deis dúinn smaoineamh ar Theaghlach Nasaireit agus ar ár dteaghlaigh féin. Más gá déanaimid iarracht bhreise, go háirithe inár dtinteán féin cairdeas agus síocháin a chothú agus a bhunú.

Is mó teachtaireacht atá tugtha ag an bPápa Proinsias don domhan uile maidir le grá Dé agus grá sa teaghlach. Is é seo ceann díobh: "Nach i bhfad níos fearr a bheadh ár saol teaghlaigh dá n-úsáidimis na focail 'le do thoil', 'buíochas leat' agus 'tá cathú orm'."

A Íosa, déan teaghlaigh a dhainníú i do ghrásta agus i do shíocháin. Áiméan.

Tá Grianstad an Gheimhridh thart le roinnt laethanta anuas agus as seo amach beidh na laethanta ag dul i bhfad. De réir an tseanchais bíonn síneadh de choiscéim choiligh gach ré lá as seo go Féile Bríde, mar sin bímis dóchasach mar tá laethanta geala amach romhainn. Bain taitneamh as an Nollaig agus go mbeirimid beo ag an am seo arís.

Feast of the Holy Family

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family "And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him." (Luke 2:40). Jesus was a member of a family. He grew up in Nazareth in the care of Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family put their trust in God and fulfilled His will. This feast provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the Holy Family of Nazareth and on our own Christian families and if necessary, to endeavour to promote friendship and peace in our own homes.

Pope Francis delivered many messages to the world regarding God's love and love in the family. He has said "How much better our family life would be if we used the words 'please', 'thank you' and 'I am sorry'."

Jesus, strengthen families with your grace and peace. Amen

The Winter Solstice has come and gone and now the days will be getting longer. According to folklore the length of every other day increases by a cock-step until St. Brigid's Day and every day after that. Let us be hopeful as there are bright days ahead. Enjoy the remainder of the Christmas season and may we thrive until this time next year.