

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.

Clergy of Brendan Cluster

Fr. Tom Hogan—057-9121757
 Fr. Antony Sajeesh - 057-9121757
 Fr. Kieran Blake, Kilcolman - 057-9120812
 Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021

**Christmas Preparation with
 Advent Reflection and Sacrament of
 Reconciliation takes place on
 Wednesday 15th December at 7.30 p.m.
 All are welcome.**

Monthly St. Pio Mass takes place next **Thursday
 16th December at 7.30 p.m.**

Each Tuesday of Advent, after 10.00 a.m. Mass,
 there will be a short reflection held in the Confer-
 ence Room. All are welcome.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are now
 available from the Parish Office. €5 each.

The excellent book entitled "**Graveyards and
 Churches of Carrig and Loughen**" is now availa-
 ble to buy in the Parish Office at a cost of €15. It
 would make an excellent gift for a loved one at
 home or abroad.

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 re-
 quest 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. €3.00 each or 2 for €5.00.

**Healy Family Meats Christmas Charity Raffle in aid of
 Midland Regional Hospice (Hooves4Hospice):** The
 raffle tickets are available through the following
 link: <https://hooves4hospice.crd.co/> Tickets start from
 €25. Lines close on 18th December. Prizes include:
 1. 100% Grass fed Hereford Heifer Quality Side of Beef,
 Value €740. 2. Mixed Quality Meat Bundle, Value €160.
 3. Free Range Turkey and Home Cured Ham, Value
 €120. Your support and help would be very greatly ap-
 preciated.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 11th	7.30pm	Nellie, Gerry & Ann Daly Paddy 'Paudge' & Chrissie O'Meara Anne Mulvey Jimmy & Frances Naughton Michael Cleary & brother Jack, Fortal Mary & Michael Haverty
Sun 12th	10.30am	Conor Mc Manus Seán & Angela Ryan & son Emmet, Newbridge Street Michael & Jim Hogan
	12 noon	Helen Carroll, Whiteford Richard Flanagan, Tullamore Road Ian Smith, Hollypark Patsy Garahy, Main Street
Carrig	9.30am	Rita O'Brien, her grandson Rian Thomas O'Brien & her sister Maureen O'Brien (London)
Tues 14th	10.00 a.m.	Frank & Carmel Egan Deceased Eucharistic Adorers
Sat 18th	10.00 a.m.	Tony Doran Patrick Kiely Ann & Patrick Maughan Mary Maughan
	7.30 p.m.	James Odlum (MM) & Odlum family John Roe Rita Molloy Addie O'Donoghue
Sun 19th	10.30 a.m.	Thomas & Mary Cox Billy Joyce, Crinkill, & his daughter Jill Tully
	12 noon	Ellen Guilfoyle (1st Ann) Peter Hynes, Castle Gardens John Hogan, Newbridge Street
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Jack & Ciss Cashen

Please Pray for the Soul of



Mary O'Reilly, Grove Street, Crinkill

Christmas Mass Times

St. Brendan's Church, Birr

Christmas Eve	Family Mass	6.00 p.m.
	Vigil Mass	9.00 p.m.
Christmas Day	8.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12.00 Noon	

Church of the Annunciation, Carrig

Christmas Eve	Vigil Mass 7.30 p.m.
Christmas Day	Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Advent

This is **Gaudete Sunday**. The
 joy of the kingdom is anticipat-
 ed. The signs of the kingdom
 already come are given to the
 messengers of John the Bap-
 tist and the prophet Isaiah. Pa-
 tient waiting for fulfilment is our
 Christian duty. We should not
 complain or give up heart. Joy,
 prayer and thanksgiving should
 characterise our Christian
 community.



Bambinelli Sunday



The 3rd Sunday of Advent
 has a beautiful tradition of the
 blessing of the Baby Jesus
 figure for the family crib. It
 was begun by the late Pope
 John Paul II. Families are
 asked to bring the statuette of
 Baby Jesus to church. We
 pray these images of Baby
 Jesus may be for all our fami-
 lies and friends who gather with us this Christmas, a
 sign of your presence and love.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
 Master of both the light and the darkness,
 send your Holy Spirit
 upon our preparation for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
 seek quiet spaces
 to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious
 over many things
 look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed
 in so many ways long for
 the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
 seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people,
 walking in darkness
 yet seeking the light.

To you we say
 "Come, Lord Jesus"
 Amen.

By Henri Nouwen

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

An Tríú Domhnach den Aidbhint - Gaudete!

'Bí gá lúcháireach i gcónaí sa Tiarna. Deirim arís é: bí-
 odh lúcháir oraibh. Bíodh bhuir gceansacht le feiceáil
 ag an saol mór mar ní fada uainn an Tiarna.' (Fil 4:4-5)
 Inniu Domhnach Gaudete nó Domhnach na Lúcháire;
 an tríú Domhnach san Aidbhint nuair a thógann dath
 rósach na lúcháire in áit chorcra an aithrí i bhFleasc
 na hAidbhinte agus i gculaith Aifrinn an tsagairt.
 Táimid breis agus leathshlí tríd an Aidbhint agus iarrtar
 orainn féachaint ar aghaidh le gairdeas d'Fhéile na
 Nollag. Lastar an choinneal rósdath i bhFleasc na
 hAidbhinte. Meabhraíonn an t-aithrí datha dúinn
 misneach a bheith againn agus leanúint ar aghaidh
 lenár n-ullmhúcháin spioradálta go mór mór le paidre-
 oireacht agus le troscadh. Ba é Naomh Eoin Baiste a
 d'ullmhaigh an bealach don Tiarna. Bíodh sé ina in-
 spioráid againn go léir. Cuireann Eoin Baiste in iúl
 dúinn inniu go bhfuil an solas tagtha isteach sa saol. Is
 é Críost an solas. Glac an chomhairle seo a leanas:
*Lean an rial a lean gach naomh. Lean go críoch í
 go caoin glan séimh. Is beannacht Dé dhil ghe-
 obhaidh tú ar feadh do shaol is ar neamh de shíor.*

**A Dhia, go dtuga tú neart agus misneach dúinn
 tréithe fóna a chothú ionainn féin i gcónaí. Ái-
 méan.**

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete!

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice! Let
 your dominion be seen by the world, for the Lord is not
 far from us.' (Phil 4: 4-5) Today is Gaudete Sunday or
 Joyful Sunday; the third Sunday in Advent when the
 rose colour of joy replaces the purple colour of repen-
 tance in the Advent Wreath and in the priest's vest-
 ments. We are more than halfway through Advent and
 we are invited to look forward joyfully to Christmas.
 The pink candle is lit on the Advent Wreath. The
 change of colour reminds us to have courage and to
 continue our spiritual preparation especially by prayer
 and fasting. Saint John the Baptist prepared the way
 of the Lord. Let him be an inspiration for us. He re-
 minds us today that a light has come into the world.
 Christ is that light. Take the following advice:

*Follow the rule followed by every saint. Follow it
 tenderly, freely, gently. And God will shower his
 blessings on you in your life and in heaven too.*

**Lord, grant us strength and courage that we may
 always nurture in ourselves goodness and virtue.
 Amen**

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