

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.

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

Each Tuesday of Advent, after 10.00 a.m. Mass, there will be a short reflection held in the Conference 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 Lougheen**" is now available 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.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - A sincere Thank You to all the people who supported so generously the recent SVP Annual Appeal. We are very grateful to those who, throughout the year, donated clothing and furniture and to our loyal customers. Míle buíochas agus beannachtaí an linbh Íosa are gach éinne.

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). If you or someone you know needs support this Christmas, please call our National Support and Referral Line on 0818 222 024 from 8am – 8pm, seven days a week. ALONE operates 365 days a year so we will be there to take your call when you need us most.

GOAL Mile Birr - The 16th annual GOAL Mile Birr will take place on Christmas Day at 1pm at Emmet Square to raise much needed funds for those most vulnerable around the world.

The Parish Office will close on **Thursday 23rd December** and will re-open on **Tuesday 4th January**.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 18th	7.30 p.m.	James Odlum (MM) & Odlum family John Roe Addie O'Donoghue
Sun 19th	8.30 a.m.	Rita & Tom Molloy Padraig Gallagher
	10.30 a.m.	Thomas & Mary Cox Billy Joyce, Crinkill, & his daughter Jill Tully & grand-daughter Lorna
	12 noon	Ellen Guilfoyle (1st Ann) Peter Hynes, Castle Gardens John Hogan, Newbridge Street
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Jack & Ciss Cashen
Mon 20th	10.00 a.m.	Thomas "Charlie" Brummell Sheila & Paddy Slattery
Tues 21st	10.00 a.m.	Mary Tuohey Jodie Donoghue Geraldine Daly & Daly family James Quinn Chrissie Brady
Wed 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Sean, John & Bridget Horan Anthony & Catherine Lawlor Mary & Frank Dunne Heffernan & Lawlor families
Thur 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Winifred & Paul Shiels John Tuohey, his nephew Thomas McInerney & Tuohey family
Fri 24th	10.00 a.m.	Mick & Eileen O'Regan & O'Regan family Margaret Mongan, her husband Patrick, daughter Margaret Hutchinson & sons Patrick & Michael
Sat 25th	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Mass Bouquets
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Mass Bouquets
Sun 26th	8.30 a.m.	Christmas Mass Bouquets
	10.30 a.m.	Peter & Pauline O'Meara Thomas & Bridget Sheeran Aherne & Dunne families, Townsend Street Donal & Patricia Ryan, Derrinsalla

Please Pray for the Soul of



Lorna Tully, Crinkill,
Patrick "Sean" Murphy, Castletroy, Limerick &
late of John's Mall, Birr

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., 2.00 Noon	

Church of the Annunciation, Carrig

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

Advent

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, is sometimes referred to as the "Angel's Candle". It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



Christmas Message

This year has almost come full circle and Christmas is upon us. It is an appropriate time to acknowledge goodness and blessings in our lives. We thank all who have actively participated in parish life: in the various masses and liturgies, with the celebration of the sacraments, by music and singing, cleaning of our churches and the maintenance of church grounds, participating on school boards and parish committees.

We have been living with COVID-19 for the past 2 years and we acknowledge the continuing role of the COVID group in both St. Brendan's and the Church of the Annunciation in Carrig and especially we thank all how help with the sacristy and open and close our churches.

We thank the St. Brendan's Environmental Group under the guidance of Liam Moran for their work in the parish at Christmas time with the decoration of St. Brendan's and the erection of the crib and inside lights. We also thank Kathleen Gormley for her creative work with the crib in St. Brendan's.

We thank Carmel Campbell, Enda O'Connor, Rena Haverty, organists, Kathrena Ryan and Kieran Hoctor, together with all who participate in both choirs as well as soloists.

We thank the young people of St. Brendan's community school and their chaplain, Kate Liffey for their involvement.

We also thank Brian Kennedy, chairman and the pastoral council.

We acknowledge Emer, our parish secretary, Joan, our sacramental co-ordinator and the teachers and staff of our schools. We thank parishioners for your continued financial support, your words of encouragement and love of faith.

Fr. Tom
& Fr. Antony

Christmas
BLESSINGS

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

An Ceathrú Domhnach den Aidhbhint.

Inniu an ceathrú Domhnach den Aidhbhint agus ceiliúrfar Breith Íosa ar fud an domhain ar an Satharn seo chugainn. Tá an feitheamh thart nach mór agus comhlíonadh na Nollag buailte linn. "Seo mar a deir an Tiarna: "Tusa, a Bethlehem Efrata, bíodh is gur beag le rá thú i measc treibheanna Judah, is asat-sa a thiocfaidh, dom-sa, an té a bheidh os cionn Israel" (Micah 5:2)

Is féidir linn teachtaireacht na Nollag a mheabhú dúinn féin agus machnamh a dhéanamh ar an gcéad Nollaig. Bhí an tSlánaitheoir geallta don chine daonna agus rugadh é breis agus dhá mhíle bliain ó shin. Lonraigh a sholas sa dorchadas. Chan na haingil leis na haoirí an chéad oíche Nollag "ná bíodh eagla oraibh; óir féach, tá dea-scéala agam daoibh, a chuirfidh áthas mór ar an bpobal uile, rugadh slánaitheoir daoibh" (Lúcás 2:10). Lastar coinneal gheal san fhuinneog mar chomhartha go bhfuil fáilte roimh an Leabhbh Íosa, Muire agus Íosaef, ní amháin inár dtithe ach inár gcroí freisin. Fáilte romhat, a Rí na nAingeal!

Síocháin an Naí Íosa a gealladh do lucht na deathola go raibh ag cách an Nollaig seo agus san Athbhliain. Áiméan.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and the Birth of Jesus will be celebrated worldwide on Saturday next. The waiting is almost over. This is how the Lord speaks: "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5:2) We can reflect on the first Christmas and its true meaning. The Saviour was promised and born in a stable in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago. A light shone in the darkness. The Angels sang to the shepherds on the first Christmas night. "Fear not, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto us this day is born a Saviour." (Luke 2:10) A lighted candle is placed in the window to welcome Mary, Joseph and the Infant Jesus not only in our homes but also in our hearts. Welcome Saviour of the world!

May the peace of the Infant Jesus promised to people of good will be with you all this Christmas and in the New Year. Amen.

Sponsored By

Anonymous

Newsletter Sponsorship - If you would like to sponsor the Newsletter we would love to hear from you. The cost is €100 per month. Please contact one of the Priests or the Parish Office.