

## 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.

### 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

### Parish Envelopes

This year's boxes containing the envelopes for the Parish Development Fund, Priests' Collection and other annual collections are now available for distribution. Distributors are asked to collect their boxes from the Conference Room after Mass. It must be noted that not every area has a distributor and some boxes will remain undistributed. If you do not receive a box and would like one, please contact the Parish Office.

A very sincere thank you to all for your generosity to our collections. It is very much appreciated.

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**Chime** The National Charity for Deafness and Hearing Loss, Our Local Supports Outreach Service is located at Birr Technology Centre, St Brendan Street. This is a free and confidential support service on all aspects of deafness and hearing loss. We Provide Information and Resources, Minor Hearing aid Repairs, Hearing Aid Batteries for sale for €2 a card. Due To Recent Covid Restrictions Please call **057-9351606/ 086-1436476** to book an appointment for the first Wednesday of every Month.

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**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.

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### 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.

## Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 15th	7.30 p.m.	Lorna Tully (MM) & her mother Jill Anne & John Sherlock Margaret Pilton (nee Landy) Jerry Lynskey
Sun 16th	10.30 a.m.	Joe & Kitty Dooley Murphy family
	12 noon	Geraldine Bergin, Emmet Street Brian Guidera John Claffey & Claffey family
Tues 18th	10.00 a.m.	Kathleen Loughnane Ellen & James Feehily & their daughter Ann
Fri 21st	10.00 a.m.	James McCarthy Patrick Quinn & parents Michael & Margaret, brothers Noel & William & sister Margaret
Sat 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Carmel Moore Jim & Mollie Brien Evelyn Bell & her parents Michael & Margaret Pardy
Sun 23rd	10.30 a.m.	Philip Brady (1st Ann)
	12 noon	Michael & Ellie O'Connor
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Thomas, Mary T. & Maretta White

### Please Pray for the Souls of



Donal Ryan, Dublin  
& late of Birr View, Crinkill,  
Catherine Kelly, Eliza Lodge NH  
& late of Dundrum, Dublin,  
mother of Mary Byrne, Dovegrove,  
Peter Guinan, Kilcormac, son of Liz, Birr  
N.U. and brother of Betty Spain,  
Syngefield and Pat, Westgate,  
Ashling Murphy, Blueball.

### To A Snowdrop

William Wordsworth

Lone Flower, hemmed in with snows and white as they  
But hardier far, once more I see thee bend  
Thy forehead, as if fearful to offend,  
Like an unbidden guest. Though day by day,  
Storms, sallying from the mountain-tops, waylay  
The rising sun, and on the plains descend;  
Yet art thou welcome, welcome as a friend  
Whose zeal outruns his promise! Blue-eyed May  
Shall soon behold this  
border thickly set  
With bright jonquils, their  
odours lavishing  
On the soft west-wind and  
his frolic peers;  
Nor will I then thy modest  
grace forget,  
Chaste Snowdrop, ven-  
turous harbinger of Spring,  
And pensive monitor of  
fleeting years!



### Thank You Lord .....

Even though I clutch my blanket  
and growl when the alarm rings each morning.  
Thank You, Lord,  
that I can hear.  
There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against  
the morning light  
as long as possible.  
Thank You, Lord,  
that I can see.  
There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the  
physical effort of rising.  
Thank You, Lord,  
that I have the strength to rise.  
There are many who are bedfast.

Even though the first hour  
of the day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is  
burned, tempers are short,  
Thank You, Lord,  
for my family.  
There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the  
pictures in the ladies' magazines  
and the menu is at times unbalanced,  
Thank You, Lord,  
for the food we have.  
There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine  
of my job is often monotonous,  
Thank You, Lord,  
for the opportunity to work.  
There are many who have no work.

Even though I grumble  
and bemoan my fate from day to day  
and wish my modest circumstances  
were not quite so modest,  
Thank You, Lord, for the gift of Life.

God did not promise sun without rain,  
Light without darkness or joy without pain,  
But He has promised strength for the day  
When the darkness comes and we lose our way.  
And when we seek shelter in His wondrous love  
And ask Him to send us help from above,  
Then we find comfort and know it is true  
That bright, shining hours and dark, sad ones too  
Are part of the plan God made for each one,  
And all we need pray is "Thy will be done".

### Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

#### Aontacht na gCríostaithe.

Tá seachtain ar leith – 18ú go 25ú Eanáir – leagtha amach ag Eaglaisí Críostaí ar fud an domhain chun guí ar son Aontachta Críostaí. Is é an téama do 2022 ná "Mar chonaiceamar a réalta ag éirí agus thángamar ag déanamh ómóis dó" (Maitiú 2 : 2). Tá sé de dhualgas orainn go léir guí ar son aontachta na bpobal Críostaí chun misean Dé a chomhlíonadh. Guímis, mar a dúirt Críost an oíche roimh a bhás, "ionas go mba aon iad go léir, faoi mar atá tusa, a Athair, ionamsa agus mise ionatsa; go mbeidís seo ina n-aon ionainn i dtreo go gcreidfidh an saol gur chuir tú uait mé." (Eoin17:21).

Tharla dhá mhórscoilte in Eaglais Chríost. Sa bhliain 1054 scar Eaglais an Oirthir i gConstantinople ón Eaglais sa Róimh agus tugadh Eaglais Cheartchreidmheach an Oirthir Ceartchreidmhaigh orthu. Tharla scoilt san Eoraip sa 16ú haois agus is as sin a d'fhás na hEaglaisí Protastúnach ina measc an Eaglais Liútarach, an Eaglais Chailvéineach agus an Eaglais Anglacánach. Le breis is céad bliain anuas tá na heaglaisí ag iarraidh na scoilteanna seo a leigheas. Tugtar Éacúiméineachas ar an iarracht sin. Is paidir ar son Aontachta Críostaí í seo:

**A Athair an ghrá, a ghlaigh sinn chun comhbhráithreachais le do mhac, agus a cheap sinn le bheith inár bhfinnéithe don soiscéal. Trí ghrásta do Spioraid, cuir ar ár gcumas na deighiltí a shárú, agus féach chuige go bhfan-faimid daingean, agus go mbeidh ár gcuid áthais iomlán. Guimid leis seo trínár dTiarna Íosa Críost, Áiméan.**

#### Christian Unity

The week of prayer for Christian Unity is kept throughout the world each year from 18<sup>th</sup> 25 January. The theme for 2022 is: "We saw the star in the east and came to worship Him," Matthew 2:2. We are obliged to pray for unity among Christians so that the mission of Christ will be fulfilled. Let us pray as Jesus asked us on the night before He died, "May they all be one, Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me, and I am in you so the world may believe it was you who sent me" (John 17:21).

Two major splits occurred in the Church of Christ. In 1014 the Eastern Church in Constantinople separated from the Church in Rome and became the Orthodox Church. In the 16th century in Europe there was a schism and the Protestant Churches, Lutheran, Calvinistic and Anglican among others were established. For over a century the unity of the churches is sought. This is called Ecumenism.

The following is a prayer for Church Unity:

**Father of love you have called us to confraternity with your Son and to be witnesses to the gospel. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit enable us to overcome divisions and remain steadfast that our joy may be complete. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.**