

## 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

**Alone:** If you are interested in registering your voluntary organisation or becoming a volunteer contact 083 - 0154669 for more information or register on

[www.volunteeroffaly.ie](http://www.volunteeroffaly.ie)

ALONE and partner organisations based in Offaly would like to invite you to a virtual event via Zoom from **10am-12pm on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022**

The event will focus on:

How to reintegrate older people into services in Offaly?"

Please register before February 17th for the event - **Registration is via this form**

like your service included please do so by following this link:

For any queries email us on [community@alone.ie](mailto:community@alone.ie)

### Pilgrimages

**Medugorje:** July 20th to July 27th 2022

Deposit for same must be in by February 11th for more information please contact Phil Robinson (086) 3956299.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes** led by Fr. Frank Guinan 29th April - May 2nd €535 all in - Coach from Mucklagh to Dublin - almost full. Please contact Kieran or Laura on 05793 55050

### Mary's Meals - Move for Meals

International school feeding charity, Mary's Meals, are launching a new fundraising campaign for the months of February and March. "Move for Meals" encourages supporters to set themselves a challenge and get active, while raising funds for children living in poverty.

While just €18.30 feeds a child for an entire school year, every fundraising effort, no matter how big or small will have a huge impact. So, would you or your family organise a sponsored walk? Would your friends be up for more of a challenge? Are you part of a fitness club that needs some new year's motivation? Would your colleagues be interested in a team building day, such as going on a hike and raising funds in the process? Just visit [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) to see how you can get involved or call Trish on 086 3140814

**Sponsored By  
MS**

## Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 12th	10.00 a.m.	Margaret Doyle
Sat 12th	7.30 p.m.	Donal Ryan, Dartry & Crinkle (MM) Dinny Kelly Bridget Reynolds, Grove St Crinkle
Sun 13th	10.30 a.m.	Jack Kennedy, Cornhill (MM) Michael Deforge & deceased members of the Deforge families
Sun 13th	12 noon	Ann & William Hough, Townsend Street Maura & Eamon Garahy & Son John, Woodlands Park Tom & Betty O' Dwyer & Son Brendan, Cappaneale
Mon 14th	10.00 a.m.	Pat, May & Brendan Dwane
Tues 15th	10.00 a.m.	Patrick Connors
Thur 17th	10.00 a.m.	Mary Harty
Fri 18th	10.00 a.m.	Louise O'Halloran (nee Dwyer) (1st Ann)
Sat 19th	10.00 a.m.	Maura & Jimmy Hayes & Deceased family members
Sat 19th	7.30 p.m.	Eoin Eastwood & his grandparents Bina & Jack Walsh Lily & Ranger Kelly Tom Loughnane, Ballywilliam (30th Ann)
Sun 20th	9.30 a.m.	Mary King, Killeen
Sun 20th	10.30 a.m.	Moira Ryan, Johnny, Harry & Larry Ryan Michael Parnell & his parents Edward & Mary Parnell, Killeen Katie Mitchell, Rosse Row
Sun 20th	12 noon	Michael Halvey, Woodlands Park Halvey & Leonard Families

### Please Pray for the Souls of

Mary Morris, John's Place Sister of Catherine Murphy, Military Road  
Jimmy Carroll, Kilcolman,  
nephews of Bill, Whiteford & Tom Carroll Birr



### Money Matters

We are especially grateful for your continued support to the parish finances. It is very much appreciated. The generosity of so many means we can pay our way. You can contribute by using Envelope boxes, by direct payment by cheque or cash or transfer directly to our bank account - **IBAN - IE40 BOFI 9016 7724 9407 77. Parish Donations** during the month of **January was €10,315. A Priests Collection** will be taken up at all masses next weekend, 19th & 20th February. Your generosity to this collection is very much appreciated.

## Thank you

February sees a change in the parish office with our parish secretary/office manager Emer Dolphin Murray leaving to take up a new work role. We thank Emer for her 15 years of service to the parish. Emer initially was asked by the late Fr. Tony Cahir to computerize the parish records in 2006 and then to become the parish's secretary. The role of parish secretary is central in the working of a parish, the first voice or face that so many people encounter in engaging with the parish.

We acknowledge the work that Emer has done over these years, putting systems in place, keeping meticulous records, creating new technologies with parish web site and face book.

We thank Emer for her professionalism and the competent way she has worked alongside the parish clergy and pastoral council.

We wish Emer well in the next chapter of her life and her new work position.

Sharon Conneely has been appointed as new parish secretary and we welcome her.

Sharon is a member of our parish and is from a well know family and comes with extensive work experience and we are fortunate that she has taken on this role.

### The opening time for the parish office:

Monday to Friday 9.30 - 12.30pm

Phone: 05791 - 22028



### Sacraments 2022 Preparation

We welcome the young people from Killeen N.S & St. Brendan's N.S participation in the weekend mass. Next week we welcome Crinkle N.S & Mercy Primary school.



### Reflection

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in an absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your Imagination, will effect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the Mornings, what you will do with your evenings, How you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with love and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love ..... And it will decide everything  
(Attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe)

## Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Naomh Vailintín.

Beidh Féile Naomh Vailintín á chomórtha againn an Luan seo chugainn Mháirt 14 Feabhra. Seolfar go leor cártaí Vailintín agus pléfar cúrsaí grá sa phobal agus sna meáin chumarsáide ach cérbh é Naomh Vailintín? Mairtíreach agus sagart ab ea é a cuireadh chun báis sa Róimh breis is 1,800 bliain ó shin toisc gur bheannaigh sé lánúineacha a bhí i ngrá. Ní raibh fonn ar na fir óga ag an am troid in Arm an Impire Rómhánaigh Claudius. Chuir Claudius an milleán ar na mná agus d'ordaigh sé gach pósadh agus gealltanas pósadh a chur ar ceal. Bhí an bás i ndán d' aon duine a chuirfeadh ina choinne. Níor aontaigh Vailintín le seo . Cuireadh i bpríosún é agus dícheannadh é sa Róimh 14 Feabhra 270 A.D.

Sa bhliain 1835 thug John Spratt, sagart Chairmilíteach cuairt ar an Róimh agus tháinig na sluaite amach chun é a chloisteáil ag soiscéalú. Mar chomhartha buíochais bhronn an Pápa Gréagóir XV1 taisí Naomh Vailintín air agus tá siad in Eaglais na gCairmilíteach i Sráid na mBráithre Bána i mBaile Átha Cliath ó shin. Tugann lánúineacha cuairt ar an scrín chun a bheannacht a iarraidh ar a bpóstaí. Is é seo a leanas a deir Naomh Pól faoi ghrá: "Bíonn an grá foighneach agus bíonn sé lách; ní bhíonn éad air; ní dhéanann sé maíomh ná mórtas; ní bhíonn sé mímhúinte ná leithleasach, míchéadfach ná agrach".

### St Valentine

We celebrated the Feast of St Valentine on Tuesday 14 February. Valentine cards were sent and love matters were discussed by people and the media. But who was St. Valentine? He was a priest martyred in Rome approximately 1,800 years ago because he blessed couples who were in love. Young men were reluctant to join the Roman Empire Army of Claudius. Claudius placed the blame for this on women. He forbade marriages and marriage engagements. Anybody who opposed him was put to death. Valentine did not agree with this. He was imprisoned and beheaded in Rome in February 270A.D. In 1835 an Irish Carmelite priest Fr. John Spratt visited Rome. Many came to hear him preaching. As a reward he received the relics of St.Valentine from Pope Gregory XVI and they are in the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Whitefriar Street, Dublin ever since. Many couples visit his shrine to ask for a blessing on their marriages.St.Paul says: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour hers, it is not self-seeking." (1 Cor. 13: 4-5)