

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

Thank you

A sincere **Thank You** to all who have helped during our Christmas Liturgies in Music, Song, word or action.

Happy New Year

We wish you every blessing for the **New Year** and we look forward to supporting one another and praying with one another during 2023. We pray that this new year will bring hope to many.

We acknowledge the continued financial support of parishioners to the Parish Development Fund and to the Priests Remuneration Fund. We acknowledge the work of the Parish Finance Committee in the management of parish finances and property.

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.

First Friday Mass in Carrig Friday 6th January @ 7.30pm

Sponsored By

Anonymous

Newsletter Sponsorship - If you would like to sponsor the Newsletter we would love to hear from you. The cost is €150 per month. Please contact one of the Priests or the Parish Office.

Remembered in Mass this Week

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| Sat 31st | 10.00am | Michael & Annie Duffy & daughter Teresa Tom McInerney, Killeen and all deceased members of the McInerney, Doyle, Tuohy, Wall, McCarthy & Donoghue Families |
| Sat 31st | 7.30pm | Mour Badiane, Fahy, Rosscahill (1st Ann) Peter & Pauline O'Meara, Clonkelly |
| Sun 1st | 8.30am | Jack Kennedy, Cornhill (1st Ann) |
| Sun 1st | 9.30 a.m. | Denis Byrne & Family, Tinnakelly Carrig |
| Sun 1st | 10.30am | Cathy Curley, Castlecourt (1st Ann) Tommy Dunican, Castletown, Fortal (1st Ann) & his son John Bridget Sheeran & the Sheeran family, William Street Aherne & Dunne Family, Townsend Street |
| Sun 1st | 12noon | Private Intentions |
| Mon 2nd | 10.00am | Private Intentions |
| Tues 3rd | 10.00am | Private Intentions |
| Wed 4th | 10.00am | Sheila & John O'Meara |
| Thur 5th | 10.00am | Private Intentions |
| Fri 6th | 10.00am | Helen (Nellie) Gallagher, Presentation Place (MM) John & Bridget Doyle |
| Sat 7th | 11.00am | Noel Cordial, South Carolina & High Street (Memorial Mass) |
| Sat 7th | 7.30pm | Mary & Tommy Wrafter , New Road Agnes Pardy, Bridget Fogarty & Evan Hogan |
| Sun 8th | 8.30am | Private Intentions |
| Sun 8th | 9.30am | Private Intentions |
| Sun 9th | 10.30 | Michael & Nora Grennan, Crinkill Denis Guinan, Lisheen Danny Byrne, Killyon |
| Sun 9th | 12 noon | James Lally, Culdara, Dovegrove (1st Ann) Geoff Liffey, Hillside Sean, John & Bridget Horan Anthony & Catherine Lawlor Mary & Frank Dunne Deceased members of the Heffernan & Lawlor families |

Please Pray for the Souls of

John Gleeson, The Green, Birr
 Tom Duffy, Syngfield
 Paddy Tully, Ely Place, Crinkill
 Irena Budeuicne, 12 Macregol Pairc
 Marion Doyle (nee Kenny), Kilcormac, mother of Brian Doyle, Station Road.



Happy New Year & Every Blessing for 2023

We celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** on January 6th and it celebrates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. We also know it as Little Christmas or Nollaig na mBan. A vigil Mass will be held in Carrig on Wednesday 5th at 7.30 p.m. and Mass in St. Brendan's will be at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 6th Jan.

Journey of the Magi

T. S. Eliot

"A cold coming we had of it,
 Just the worst time of the year
 For a journey, and such a long journey:
 The ways deep and the weather sharp,
 The very dead of winter."
 And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
 Lying down in the melting snow.
 There were times we regretted
 The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
 And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
 Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
 And running away,
 And wanting their liquor and women,
 And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
 And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
 And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
 A hard time we had of it.
 At the end we preferred to travel all night,
 Sleeping in snatches,
 With the voices singing in our ears, saying
 That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
 Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
 With a running stream
 and a water-mill beating the darkness,
 And three trees on the low sky,
 And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
 Then we came to a tavern
 with vine-leaves over the lintel,
 Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
 And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
 But there was no information, and so we continued
 And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
 Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
 And I would do it again, but set down
 This set down
 This: were we led all that way for
 Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
 We had evidence and no doubt.
 I had seen birth and death,
 But had thought they were different; this Birth was
 Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
 We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
 But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
 With an alien people clutching their gods.
 I should be glad of another death.

Prayer for the New Year

God of all time,
 help us enter the New Year quietly,
 thoughtful of who we are
 to ourselves and to others,
 mindful that our steps make an impact
 and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak
 only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,
 help us enter the New Year reverently,
 aware that you have endowed
 every creature and plant,
 every person and habitat
 with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honour rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,
 help us enter the New Year joyfully,
 willing to laugh and dance and dream,
 remembering our many gifts with thanks
 and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

In this new year,
 may the grace and peace of Christ
 bless us now and in the days ahead.

Vinita Hampton Wright

A Christmas Candle Prayer

Help me to enter into the real experience of this special time, to let go of needless anxiety and stress To feel peace and healing enter my tired spirit .

With this Candle I pray this Christmas



For Peace in my family
 For children and young adults in broken families
 For couples going through the pain of separation
 For those who dread Christmas, because they have lost a loved one
 For those who are more lonely at Christmas
 For families who are fearful of violence because a father or mother drinks too much
 For those who are losing faith and hope
 For those who have to spend Christmas in hospital
 For those who suffer from depression

For those worried about their children, about binge-drinking, drugs or violence on the streets
 For those who cannot come home for Christmas
 For those who find it difficult to come home to God, to faith and to the church.