

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish Mobile: 087-3515294
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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 - 089-4436426
Fr. Kieran Blake, Kilcolman - 057-9120812
Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021

We acknowledge the generosity of people who attended the Ecumenical Carol service on December 18th. A total of €790.00 was contributed in the returning collection to the local SVP Society. Mile Buíochas

Christmas Priests Collection was taken last weekend. A sincere thanks to all who contributed. If you were away you can place the envelope in the green box by the altar rails. We are very appreciative of your support during these difficult times.

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.

GOAL Mile Birr - The 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 EWTN Family Christmas Special
 The Choir of EWTN performs 12 timeless Christmas hymns at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Fri, 23 at 5.00pm; and again on Sun 25th at 2:am(1hr)

Adoration will finish on Friday 23rd December and will resume on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Maria's Gospel Hour Due to huge interest Maria will be starting a show on Youtube at 4pm on Sundays. Search "@mariadoherty" on Youtube to watch on Christmas Day and New Year's Day onwards

The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2023



Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 24th	10.00am	Mick & Eileen O'Regan, Moorpark Street and deceased members of the O'Regan family Margaret Mongan, daughter Margaret & Son in law Brendan Hutchinson & grandsons Patrick & Michael Hutchinson Dan Boyd, Oxmantown Mall
Sat 24th	6.00pm	Christmas Mass Bouquets
Sat 24th	9.00pm	Christmas Mass Bouquets
Sun 25th Carrig	9.30am	Christmas Mass Bouquets
Sun 25th	10.30am	Christmas Mass Bouquets
Sun 25th	12 noon	Christmas Mass Bouquets
Mon 26th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Tues 27th	10.00am	Joe Grimes, Harrow & Cappaneale (MM) Paddy & Sheila O'Callaghan, Moorpark Street Sarah Nugent & her father Paddy Nugent, Green Street
Wed 28th	10.00am	Mary Burke, Burkes Hill (MM)
Thur 29th	10.00am	Patricia Power & her husband Willie, Oxmantown Mall Michael Delaney, Burkes Hill and all deceased members of the family
Fri 30th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Sat 31st	10.00am	Michael & Annie Duffy & daughter Teresa
Sat 31st	7.30pm	Mour Badiane, Fahy, Roscahill (1st Ann) Peter & Pauline O'Meara, Clonkelly
Sun 1st	8.30am	Jack Kennedy, Cornhill, Riverstown (1st Ann)
Sun 1st Carrig	9.30am	Denis Byrne & Family, Tinnakelly
Sun 1st	10.30am	Cathy Curley, Castlecourt (1st Ann) Tommy Dunican, Castletown, Fortal (1st Ann) & his son John Tom McInerney, Killeen and all deceased members of the McInerney, Doyle, Tuohy, Wall & McCarthy Families Bridget Sheeran & the Sheeran family, William Street Aherne & Dunne Family, Townsend Street
Sun 1st	12 noon	Private Intentions

Please Pray for the Souls of
 Frances Hogan, Green Street
 Joe Billane, London, formerly of High Street
 Anastasia McGovern, Dublin & Station House Birr
 Sister of Eileen Grogan, Military Road & Michael Grogan Poulagannive



Christmas Appreciation

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 and the celebration of the Sacraments. Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and by music and singing, cleaning of our churches and the maintenance of church grounds, participating on school boards of management and parish committees.

We thank Margaret & Tom O'Brien sacristans in the Church of Annunciation Carrig and team of volunteers in St. Brendan's sacristy. We acknowledge those who open and close our churches.

We thank 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. We also thank Kathleen Gormley for her creative work with the crib in St. Brendan's and for her painting of the statues in Carrig. We acknowledge Eddie Doorley and team for the new crib and figures in Carrig Church

We thank Carmel Campbell, Enda O'Connor, Rena Haverty, organists, Kathrena Ryan and Kieran Hoctor Birr Folk Choir. Gerry Dolan and Tommy Lyndon 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 in parish life throughout the year. We also thank Brian Kennedy, chairman of the Pastoral Council.

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

*Fr. Tom
& Fr. Antony.*

Christmas

And is it true? And is it true,
 This most tremendous tale of all,
 Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
 A Baby in an ox's stall?
 The Maker of the stars and sea
 Become a Child on earth for me ?

No love that in a family dwells,
 No carolling in frosty air,
 Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
 Can with this single Truth compare –
 That God was man in Palestine
 And lives today in Bread and Wine.

John Betjeman

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Lá Nollag

Is saoire mhór phoiblí í an Nollaig, atá á chomórath ar fud an domhain inniu, fiú ina lán de na tíortha nach bhfuil cónaí ar mhórán Críostaithe iontu. Tá gealltanas Dé comhlíonta. Rugadh Íosa. Is é Íosa Solas an Domhain, ár ndóchas, ár lúcháir. Nach aoi-bhinn go deo mar a chan na haingil do na haoirí ar an gcéad oíche Nollag 'Ná bíodh eagla oraibh: óir féach, tá dea-scéala agam daoibh a chuirfidh áthas mór ar an bpobal uile: rugadh slánaitheoir daoibh inniu – is é Críost an Tiarna é - i gcathair Dháiví'. (Lúcás 2:10-12) Is deas Cró na Nollag a fheiceáil i ngach séipéal mar chomhartha ómóis don leanbh Íosa. Tá an Cró Nollag againn le beagnach ocht gcéad bliain. Naomh Proinsias, Assisi a chuir tús leis an gCró Nollag san Eoraip. Sa bhliain 1220 thug sé cuairt ar Bheithil agus thaitin an tslí inar ceiliúradh an Nollaig ansin go mór leis. Nuair a d'fhill sé abhaile rinne sé mainséar in uaimh. Chuir sé íomhá chloiche den leanbh Íosa isteach inti agus chuir sé ainmhithe beo timpeall uirthi. Bhí na daoine an-sásta leis an gCró Nollag agus d'fhás an nós as sin *Dia do bheatha a Íosa, Dia do bheatha i gclí ón Oigh, a ghnúis is áille ná an ghrian, na míle fáilte i d' Dhia óg.*

(Dia do Bheatha a Naí Naoimh)
Nollaig bheannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise go raibh agaibh go léir.

Christmas is a great public feast celebrated worldwide even in countries where Christians are a minority. God's promise is fulfilled. Christ is born. He is the Light of the World, our hope, our joy. How lovely the angels sang to the shepherds that first Christmas night 'Do not be afraid I bring you good news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord' (Luke 2:10-12). Cribs are displayed in Churches in honour of the Infant Jesus. This custom is almost eight hundred years old. St. Francis of Assisi started the custom in Italy and it spread throughout Europe. In 1220 he visited Bethlehem and he admired the way Christmas was being celebrated there. When he returned home, he created a manger in a cave. He placed a stone image of the Infant Jesus surrounded by live animals in it. People were very pleased with the Crib and the custom spread.

You are welcome, Jesus, you are welcome born of the Virgin, his countenance brighter than the sun, many thousand welcomes O Son of God.
May you have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sponsored by Birr Town FC

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