

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—087-6446410
Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021
Fr. Arnold Rosney - 087-8598710

Thank you

A sincere **Thank You** to all who have helped during our Christmas Liturgies.

Parish Finances

We acknowledge and thank parishioners for their generosity and support of the Parish. The amount donated week ending 23/24th December was **€1,454.00 & Christmas Day was €6,020.00**

Tax Back Scheme

All who donate €250 or above and pay tax can avail of a tax back refund for the parish by signing the CHY3 form available from the Parish office you may signed up previously and it may need to be updated

We acknowledge the continued financial support of parishioners to the Parish Development Fund and to the Priests Remuneration Fund.

Envelope Collections

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Jan 18th - 25th

Sponsored by Birr Town FC

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

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 30th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Sat 30th	7.30pm	Peter & Pauline O' Meara, Clonkelly
Sun 31st	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 31st	9.30am	Denis Byrne & Family, Tinnakelly Carrig
Sun 31st	10.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 31st	12noon	Tom Duffy, Syngfield (1st Ann) Michael & Annie Duffy & daughter Teresa, Athlone Mour Badiane, Rosscahill Galway & Birr
Mon 1st	10.00am	Private Intentions
Tues 2nd	10.00am	Private Intentions
Wed 3rd	10.00am	Private Intentions
Thurs 4th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Fri 5th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Sat 6th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Sat 6th	7.30pm	Agnes Pardy, High Street Bridget Fogarty, High Street Evelyn Hogan William & Josephine Kealey, Clonoghill Lower Denis & Mary Tierney & daughters Patricia & Josephine O' Connor
Sun 7th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 7th	9.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 7th	10.30am	Peggy Roberts, Eden Road (1st Ann) Cathy Curley, Castlecourt Denis Guinan, Lisheen Thomas Dunican, Castletown & his Son John Dunican Jack, May & Patrick O' Keeffe
Sun 7th	12 noon	John Harte, Emmett Square & Birr Community Nursing Unit (MM) Michael Maher, Roscrea (1st Ann) & Danny Maher, Australia (1st Ann) brothers of Ellie Hoctor, Hilltop Myra & Tommy Wrafter, New Road Gerry & Mary Hoare & Son Fintan, Railway Road Des & Eileen Talbot, Hillside

Please Pray for the Souls of

Tom Nestor, Riveroak, Riverstown
Thomas Cooke, The Terrace Crinkle & Birr
Community Nursing Unit
Gerry Dolan, Wilmer Road
Eileen Horan, Eglis, mother of Aidan Horan, Daybreak
Newbridge Street
Nancy Connolly, Mountmellick, sister of Colman
Loughnane, Tullamore Road



Happy New Year & Every Blessing for 2024

Feast of the Epiphany

We celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** on January 6th It celebrates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. We also know it as Little Christmas or Nollaig na mBan.

Vigil Mass Carrig Friday 5th at 7.30 p.m.
St. Brendan's at 10.00 a.m. Saturday 6th January

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

Wildflowers

**I'm grateful
for simple wildflowers,
renegades of beauty,
paying no heed to the proper place,
or the acceptable way
to rise up in Glory.**

**Their Seeds fall
into waiting earth
with a passionate embrace.**

**No fenced boundaries,
no limits on their joy,
savouring sun and rain
they root and grow,
singing in the breeze,
content and free.**

**Oh, Wildflowers,
grow and sing inside of me!**

Mary Oliver