

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish House: 057 9121757
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Email: info@stbrendansbirr.ie

Parish Office Opening Hours
Monday - Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Clergy of Brendan Cluster

Fr. Tom Hogan—087-6446410
Fr. Antony Sajeesh - 089-4436426
Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021

Parish Finances

We acknowledge and thank parishioners for their generosity and support of the Parish. The amount donated week ending 30/31st December was **€1,598**

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.

Midland Living Links supporting those bereaved by suicide. Coffee Morning 9th January, Conference room in St. Brendan's Church after 10.00 a.m. mass. All welcome.

Birr Historical Society, Monday 15th January, 8.00pm, County Arms Hotel. Illustrated talk by Architect/Town Planner Fergus Mc Cabe & Photographer Paul Moore on Public Sculptures in Offaly with an emphasis on Birr. All Welcome

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

Nenagh Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 2024: Joe Walshes. Date, 12th June to 19th June Departing from Dublin Arriving in Dubrovnik. All are welcome. **Accompanied** by a **Spiritual Director**. The price is €879. **Can be paid off by instalments**. For more details please contact Seán & Elaine Connolly, 087 6835150.

Please pray for the souls of

Jimmy McEvoy, Presentation Place
Frank O'Loughlin, WoodlandVillas, Tullamore
Road & Birr Nursing Unit



Remembered in Mass this Week

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 Carrig	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	12noon	John Harte, Emmett Square & Birr Community Nursing Unit (MM) Michael Maher, Roscrea (1st Ann) Danny Maher, Australia (1st Ann) brothers of Ellie Hctor, Hilltop Myra & Tommy Wrafter, New Road Gerry & Mary Hoare & Son Fintan, Railway Road Des & Eileen Talbot, Hillside Joe & Teresa Sharkey Donal Meleady
Mon 8th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Tues 9th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Wed 10th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Thurs 11th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Fri 12th	10.00am	Margaret Doyle, Croghan
Sat 13th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Sat 13th	7.30pm	Ann & John Sherlock, Killeen Jim & Molly Brien Tom & Mary Ryan, Seffin Tommy & Mary Brummell & Son Tony, The Crescent
Sun 14th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 14th Carrig	9.30am	Ted Sullivan & Son Séan, Ballagh
Sun 14th	10.30am	James Hehir (MM), The Terrace Crinkill Elizabeth O'Meara Patrick & Margaret O'Meara Michael & Nora Grennan, Crinkill Bridget Sheeran, William Street Aherne & Dunne Family, Townsend Street
Sun 14th	12 noon	Helen Liffey, Camp Hill Carrig on Suir (MM) & dad Geoff Liffey, Hillside Donal Ryan, Dublin Gerry & Agnes O'Brien, West Gate Seán Whyte, Arraghmore, Carrig

Gerry Dolan

July 22nd 1932 - Dec 28th 2023

The news of the death of Gerry Dolan, Wilmer Road caused both sadness and thankfulness. He was blessed with a long and full life, despite mobility challenges he continued to be active in Church and community life. The Latin term "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful) is an apt description of his life and times. For over 70 years he has been part of the lives of so many families and their special occasions through his gift of singing and involvement in St. Brendan's Church choir, Birr stage guild and his garage business. He has entertained and enthralled us in pantomime and musical stage productions. He has created the joyful ambiance for the celebrations of weddings and soothed broken hearts at funeral time. Gerry has actively participated at liturgical occasions at both parish and diocesan level. His powerful tenor voice was heard up to the last few weeks of his life at daily mass in St Brendan's. For several years he lead the singing for Diocesan pilgrimages to Knock & Lourdes and local cluster level. Gerry's warm outgoing personality drew people and he was involved in various choirs outside of Birr - Banagher, Clonfert, Eglis. His knowledge of church music and liturgy was legendary. Gerry excelled in the planning of liturgical events and was the chairman of the liturgy group and choir director of St. Brendan's and served on the Pastoral Council.

We as a parish community are all the better because of Gerry and his death is a great loss.

We extend our sympathy to his family, his sister Mary, brothers Brendan and Gabriel, his sister in law Mary, nieces and nephews and wide circle of family and friends.

**Beannach Dé ar a anam usceal
ceolmhar.**

Sr. Eileen - Cúinne

Bliain Úr Nua.

Tá tréimhse na Nollag thart agus tá bliain úr nua thar tairseach isteach chugainn agus ag síneadh amach romhainn. Ag tús na bliana tagaimid os comhair Dé go humhail, ag gabháil buíochas leis as na grásta go léir a bhronn Sé orainn go fial sa bhliain atá imithe tharainn. Ní fios cad atá i ndán dúinn sa todhchaí ach ní gá dúinn bheith buartha mar beidh Dia linn. Is teaghlach Dé sinn go léir agus roinneann Sé gach beannacht go fial ar a chlann. Mar sin cuirimis fáilte mhór na taoide tuile roimh 2024 agus go lonraí so-las do ghnúise orainn, a Thiarna, i rith na bliana. Tabhair aire dúinn ó inniu go bliain ó inniu agus inniu féin.

A New Year.

The Christmas period is over and a new year is here. At the beginning of the year we come before God with great gratitude, thanking him for all the graces he has bestowed on us so generously in the past year. We do not know what the future holds but let us not worry because God will be with us. We are all God's family and He generously shares His blessings on his family. So let us warmly welcome 2024 and may the light of your countenance, Lord, shine on us throughout the year. Take care of us from today and during the year.

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May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path; Not by taking hardships from you, But by taking fear from your heart; Not by granting your unbroken sunshine, But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; Not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people and their causes need you most, any by making you anxious to be there to help, God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

Terence Harrington

**Sponsored by Anonymous**