

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish House: 057 9121757
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Parish Office Opening Hours
Monday - Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Clergy of Brendan Cluster
Fr. Tom Hogan—057-9121757
Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnity - 057-9137021
Fr. Arnold Rosney - 087-8598710

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.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - A sincere Thank You to all the people who supported so generously the recent SVP Annual Appeal. We are very grateful to those who, throughout the year, donated clothing and furniture. The society is very grateful to our many loyal customers. Wishing you a very happy Christmas.

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 Adoration Room closes on Tuesday Dec 23rd and reopens on Friday January 2nd 2026.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

From "The Joy of Love" by Pope Francis

The Parish Office will re-open on Monday January 5th 2026

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 27th	10.00am	Private Intentions
Sat 27th	7.30pm	Paddy O'Callaghan, Moorpark Street Peter & Pauline O'Meara, Clonkelly
Sun 28th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 28th	9.30am	Denis Byrne & Family, Tinnakelly Carrig
Sun 28th	10.30am	John & Bea Irwin, Syngefield
Sun 28th	12 noon	Gerry Dolan, Wilmer Road John Gleeson, Green Street, Birr

Gala Christmas Concert



The Gala Concert was a huge success and we are so grateful for the contributing artists who provided a feast of entertainment.

The Folk Choir, David O Meara/Brendan Kennedy/Seanie Guilfoyle, Dickie Donnelly, The Kinsella Family Darragh Molloy, Rachael Cleary, Emmet Scully David Mcardle, Sarah Gene Loughnane, Mairead Cashin Alan & Adam Cassidy, Miriam & Michelle O Neill Paddy Kelly, Heather Colohan, Caelum Larkin Lucie Pardy, Pete Kennedy & John Molloy

We Acknowledge

Narrator - Tommy Lyndon
Poster Design - Naomi Mooney McArdle
Ticket Logistics - Emma Nee Birr Theatre
Media Assistance - Gildas Le Pallec
Sound Supply - Kelly Sound Galway
Screen Supply - K & R Clara
Video Camera - Sean De Cleare
Sound Engineer - Alan Kelly
Stage Manager - Alan Cassidy
Green Room - Adrian Shiels
Yard Manager - Eugene & Christy O'Sullivan
Vehicles - David Corbett & Adrian Shiels
We acknowledge the help of the JP II students & members of the Pastoral Council who co-ordinated the raffle and Front of House

Raffle Sponsors

Hugo Loonam Motors, Emmas Cafe Birr
Doolys Hotel Birr, Dickie Donnelly

We are forever grateful to Dickie Donnelly of Mill Island Media who organised this wonderful event and co-ordinated the artists and logistics with his enthusiasm and energy ensuring its success.

Mile Buíochas

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 Shane Dinan for their work in the parish at Christmas time with the decoration of St. Brendan's and the erection of the crib. We acknowledge Mary Kinsella for the Church decorations and we also thank Kathleen Gormley for her creative work with the crib in St. Brendan's. We acknowledge Eddie Doorley and team for the crib and figures in Carrig Church

We thank Carmel Campbell, Enda O'Connor, Rena Haverty, organists. Kathrena Ryan and Kieran Hoctor Birr Folk Choir. Miriam & Michelle O'Neill. Tommy Lyndon together with all who participate in both choirs as well as soloists.

We thank the young people from St. Brendan's pastoral area youth group 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 pastoral worker, Veronica Dalton Pastoral worker 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. Arnold & Fr. Tom

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.

Lessons from Christmas Tree

- ➊ Twinkle
- ➋ Share Your Gifts
- ➌ Bring joy to others
- ➍ Be a light in the darkness.
- ➎ We all fall over sometimes.
- ➏ Your were born to sparkle Even if your garland is a little droopy
- ➐ It is okay to be a little tilted.

By Jane Lee Logan