

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.

Psalter week 4

Parish Finances

We acknowledge and thank parishioners for their generosity and support of the Parish. The amount donated week ending 18/19th April was **€2410.00**

A Tap and Donate machine is now at the Church's main entrance for card donations. Simply tap to choose your fund—Parish Fund, Priests Fund, or Adorations and Shrines Fund. Select your amount, present your card, and wait for confirmation.

Legion of Mary in the Parochial House Basement, Johns Place every Wed @ 7.30pm.

Trócaire - Now that the Lenten Season has concluded we invite you to return your Trócaire box or offerings to the Parish office or to the sacristy before or after Mass or alternatively there is an option to donate through the Tap & Donate. Your support for Trócaire is very much appreciated at these difficult times. To date **€3560.00 has been contributed**

BIRR FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 2026 FRIDAY 1st MAY

THE NIALL KINSELLA ORCHESTRA : The Golden Age of Jazz & Swing **St. Brendan's R.C. Church, Wilmer Road, Birr - 8.00pm - €25** Featuring Irish jazz diva STELLA BASS with American Songbook standards by Gershwin, Cole Porter, Rodgers & Hart, and instrumentals of Duke Ellington, Glen Miller, Count Basie and more.

May Bank Holiday Weekend 1 -4 May

A host of Concerts, Recitals, Pop-Up events, in Theatre, Churches, Cafes, Courtyards, Castles & Gardens throughout Birr and region. Featuring The Niall Kinsella Orchestra, Ensembles, Trios, The Trench Award, Music for schools, and more. The Festival's 10th Anniversary year bringing National, International and Musicians of the Future to Birr. See birrfestivalofmusic.com for full programme and tickets. **Box Office (057)9122911**

Shinrone Lunch Club, in conjunction with Offaly Local Development, is hosting a **Lunch Club on Tuesday, 5th May at 12:30pm** in **Shinrone Community Centre**. For just **€10 per person**, you can enjoy: a delicious **Dinner, Dessert, Tea/Coffee, Great entertainment**. Lovely company with friends and neighbours. **Booking is essential**. To reserve your place, please contact: **Sinead: 087 217 5998 or Declan: 087 979 9663.**

Lough Derg Pilgrimage - 3 day pilgrimage June 29th, 30th & 1st July. Bus leaving from Lidl Carpark if interested please contact the parish office 05791-22028

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 25th	10am	Private Intentions
Sat 25th	7.30pm	Ann Hogan, The Swan, Main Street, Birr (MM) Derek Maher, Cappaneale Park John & Mary Doyle & Son Nicholas & daughter Geraldine, Fairview Kit Molloy, Clonaslee Val Hogan, Clonaslee Mick, Jim & Katie Doyle, Ballybritt Mary, Johnny, Molly & Mickey Hutchinson Deceased members of the Doyle & O'Brien Families
Sun 26th	8.30am	Margaret & Paddy Corrigan, Castle Street, Birr
Sun 26th Carrig	9.30am	Elizabeth Kennedy (née McCormack), Lacka, Carrig (MM) Martin Carney, Carrig Village
Sun 26th	10.30am	Rody Carroll, Killeen (MM) Hellena Cleary, London
Sun 26th	12noon	Sheila Connors, Newbridge Street Anthony Nevin & his son Anthony Nevin Jnr Brigid (Breda) White
Mon 27th	10am	Private Intentions
Tues 28th	10am	Mary & Michael Haverty, Ferbane
Wed 29th	10am	Bridget (Dilly) McAteer, Birr Trevor & Damo O'Shea, Bulfin Park & deceased members of the Brummell & O'Shea families
Thur 30th	10am	Private Intentions
Fri 1st	10am	Private Intentions
Fri 1st Carrig	7.30pm	Betty King, Riverstown (MM)
Sat 2nd	10am	Bridget McDonagh, Cuba Avenue, Banagher (1st Ann)
Sat 2nd	7.30pm	Pearl Parsons, Bulfin Park (MM) & her husband Tommy Mick & Mary Hogan, Crinkill
Sun 3rd	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 3rd Carrig	9.30am	Mark Smyth, Tinlough, Carrig
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Paddy Molloy, Burkes Hill Stan Hayes, High Street
Sun 3rd	12noon	Gerry Corcoran, Burkes Hill (1st Ann) Tony McLoughlin, Main Street, Birr & his parents Patrick & Eileen McLoughlin Jack & Lily Harte, Main Street, Birr

Vocation Sunday

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter or Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We ask that we may be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit as we carry on the mission of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Let us pray for one another that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocations as married and single people, priests, deacons, and religious. May our youth listen to God's call and be encouraged to respond generously.

"Dear friends, it is not always easy to discern our vocation and to steer our life in the right direction. For this reason, there needs to be a renewed commitment on the part of the whole Church – priests, religious, pastoral workers and educators – to provide young people in particular with opportunities for listening and discernment. There is a need for a youth ministry and a vocational promotion that can open the way to discovering God's plan, above all through prayer, meditation on God's word, Eucharistic adoration and spiritual accompaniment".

--Pope Francis

"The priest is not an angel sent from heaven. He is a man, a member of the Church, a Christian. Remaining man and Christian, he begins to speak to you the word of God. This word is not his own. No he comes to you because God has told him to proclaim God's word. Perhaps he has not entirely understood it himself. Perhaps he adulterates it. Perhaps he falters and stammers. How else could he speak God's Word, ordinary man that he is? But must not some one of us say something about God, about eternal life, about the majesty of grace in our sanctified being; must not some one of us speak of sin, the judgement and mercy of God?"

Karl Rahner

Sr. Eileen - Cúinne

Lá na nGairmeacha/ An tAoire Fóna

Lá faoi leith san Eaglais is ea an Ceathrú Domhnach den Cháisc ina n-iarrrtar orainn machnamh a dhéanamh ar an ngairm a thugann Dia do gach duine. Ag ár mBaisteadh glaonn Íosa ar gach duine againn é a leanúint. Is cuma an duine a bheith óg nó aosta, saibhir nó daibhir, tuath nó cléir, tá gairm tugtha ag Dia do gach uile dhuine nach féidir le haon duine eile a chomhlíonadh. Déanaimis gach iarracht bheith dílis dár ngairm go laethúil. Iarrrtar orainn freisin guí go dtiocfaidh méadú ar ghairmeacha chun na Sagartachta agus an Bheatha Reiligiúnach. Is é Íosa féin a dúirt linn: "Tá an fómhar fairsing ach níl ann ach meitheal bheag. Dá bhrí sin guígi Máistir an Fhómhair go gcuirfeadh sé meitheal uaidh isteach ina fhómhair". Tá páirt lárnach ag saol na clainne chun gairmeacha a spreagadh agus a chothú. Is ann a chuirtear síol le haghaidh gairme saoil. Is féidir an phaidir seo a rá go rialta ar son gairmeacha chuig an saol sagartúil agus chuig an bheatha reiligiúnach. A Thiarna Íosa Críost, Slánaitheoir an domhain, go n-éirí linn ár mbeatha a chaitheamh de réir do dhílse. Go dtreoraí an Spiorad Naomh sagairt agus lucht craobhscaoilte an dea-scéil agus go gcuire Íosa meitheal uaidh isteach ina fhómhair. Áiméan.

Careers Day/The Sound Shepherd

Fourth Sunday of Easter On the fourth Sunday of Easter we are invited to reflect on the vocation given to each of us. In our Baptism each is called personally to follow Jesus whether we are young or old, a parent or individual, rich or poor, or in Religious Life, God has called each to fulfil a special role in life which cannot be done by any other. Let us make every effort to be faithful always to this calling. We are asked to pray for an increase of vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life today. Jesus said, "The harvest is great but the labourers are few. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers into His harvest". Family life plays a key role in motivating and nurturing careers It is where vocations and career choices are nurtured. We can say this prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, may we spend our lives faithful to You. May the Holy Spirit guide priests and all who preach the gospel and may the Lord of the harvest send labourers to work on His behalf Amen.

Sponsored by Birr Town F.C.