

## BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 Parish Mobile: 086 3531955

Website: www.stbrendansbirr.ie  
Email: info@stbrendansbirr.ie

Priest on Duty - Please call Parish Mobile - 086 3531955

Fr. Tom Hogan—057-9121757

Fr. Michael Reddan—057-9120098

Fr. Pat Gilbert—057-9120098

Fr. Antony Sajeesh - 057-9120098

Fr. Kieran Blake, Kilcolman - 057-9120812

Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021

### Brendan Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St. Brendan's, Birr - Saturday 7.30 p.m.,  
Sunday 8.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon

Church of the Annunciation, Carrig -

Sunday 9.30 a.m.

St. Colman's, Kilcolman - Sunday 11.00 a.m.

St. Ita's, Coolderry - Saturday 8.00 p.m.

St. John's, Ballybritt - Sunday 9.30 a.m.

St. Mary's, Shinrone - Sunday 11.00 a.m.

St. Patrick's, The Pike - Saturday 6.45 p.m.

St. Finian Cam, Longford - Sunday 9.30 a.m.

St. Flannan's, Kinnitty - Sunday 11.30 a.m.

St. Molua's, Roscomroe - Sunday 10.30 a.m.

St. Luna's, Cadamstown - Saturday 8.00 p.m.

Shalom Media Ireland is running a residential retreat from Friday 29th March (10.00 a.m.) to Sunday 31st March (4.00 p.m.) in the Ceilli Community, Harbour Road, Kilbeggan. Register at www.shalommedia.org or contact 087-2484145 or 086-3010681 for more details.

**Active Retirement Fitness Classes** every Monday and Thursday mornings at 10am in private class studio at Birr Leisure Centre. Light exercises focusing on strength, balance, coordination, mobility and boosting energy. Exercises can be regressed/progressed to suit abilities. All welcome. Cost €6

**Birr Community Games:** Art, Model-making & Hand-writing competition for Under 8 to Under 16 Girls & Boys in Marian Hall Sunday 10th March 2019 from 11- 4 pm. All welcome.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 25<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June:** The pilgrimage would welcome the assistance of Nurses who would like to volunteer and care for assisted pilgrims on this year's Diocesan pilgrimage for five days in June. If interested please contact Michael on 086-3813677.

**Single Bed** - almost new, looking for a good home. Please contact the Parish Office.

**Basket Fund Collection Last Sunday - €1,817  
Many Thanks.**

**Parish Fund Collectors - March 17th**  
M. Hogan & C. Mulrooney

Sponsored by

**Anonymous**

### Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 9th	7.30 p.m.	Michael & Kathleen Regan Mick Coogan James & Margaret Horan Tom O'Meara, Beech Avenue Jack Roberts & Roberts family
Sun 10th	10.30 a.m.	Patricia Shelly (1st Ann) Peter O'Meara Brendan & Margaret Hutchinson & family
	12 noon	Ellen Doyle Geraldine Cleary
Mon 11th	10.00 a.m.	Hannie McCarthy (1st Ann) & husband Tom Bridie Maher & family
Tues 12th	10.00 a.m.	Deceased Eucharistic Adorers
Wed 13th	10.00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Thur 14th	10.00 a.m.	John & Madge Hctor
Sat 16th	7.30 p.m.	Eoin Eastwood (MM) John & Frances Hoare Sr. Josephine Grimes
Sun 17th	10.30 a.m.	Marie Coughlan & Granddaughter Chelsea Kennedy Noel Flynn
	12 noon	Jim Normile William, Teresa & Donie Hanley Anna Pey Hanley & Pey families Noel Reedy James & Winifred Carter



### Please Pray for the Souls of

Mick Caffrey, Glebe Street,  
Mossie Kelly McMahon, New Road.

### Child Safeguarding & Garda Vetting

If you are a Eucharistic Minister, member of the Pastoral Council, Sacristan or Altar Server leader you must complete a National Vetting form for submission to the Diocesan Office. This must be done regardless of whether you have been vetted before or not.

Thank you to all who gave returned their forms. We would appreciate if the remainder were returned **to the Parish Office as soon as possible** for submission to the Diocesan Office. Applications can only be submitted on a National Vetting Bureau Application Form (NVB 2). These are available from the **back of the altar after Mass**.

If you have **difficulty completing your form** please contact the **Parish Office**. Thank you very much for you time in completing this very important procedure.

### Lent 2019

#### Pope Francis Encourages THE BEST FASTING:

Fast on offensive words and transmit only sweet and tender words  
Fast on dissatisfaction  
and fill yourself with gratitude  
Fast on anger and fill yourself with meekness and patience  
Fast on pessimism and be filled with optimism  
Fast on worries and be filled with confidence in God  
Fast on laments and take pleasure in the simple things of life  
Fast on stress and fill yourself with prayer  
Fast on sadness and bitterness,  
and fill your heart with joy  
Fast on selfishness,  
and be filled with compassion for others  
Fast on unforgiveness and vendettas,  
and be filled with acts of reconciliation and forgiveness  
Fast on words and fill yourself with readiness to listen to others  
If we all practice this style of fasting,  
our everyday will be filled with peace, joy, and trust in each other, and life.



**Pope Francis' Message for Lent**  
*The theme of Pope Francis' message for Lent is 'For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God'.*



Appealing to the faithful to not allow this season of grace to pass in vain, Pope Francis says that if, "the Lent of the Son of God 'was an entry into the desert of creation to make it become again that garden of communion with God" that it was before the original sin, Christians today are invited "to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving."

#### Daily Lenten Prayer

Today Lord, I choose life,  
I choose your love and the challenge to live it and share it,  
I choose hope, even in moments of darkness,  
I choose faith, accepting you as Lord and God,  
I choose to let go of some part of my burdens,  
day by day handing them over to you,  
I choose to take hold of your strength and power ever more deeply in my life.  
May this truly be for me a time of new life, of change, challenge and growth.  
May I come to Easter with a heart open to dying with you  
and rising to your new life, day by day.  
Amen



### Confirmation 2019

Thanks to Offaly County Council and their staff for making the car park of Birr Civic Offices available on Saturday last for our Confirmation Ceremonies.

A special word of thanks to teachers of 6th class in our primary schools, to Helena Kennedy who ran the after school preparation programme, to Sr. Maeve who ran the adult preparation programme, to Joan Hogan who co-ordinated the sacramental programme. Also thanks to Ger Roberts, Eimear Scully, Paula Hoare and Christy Sullivan. All your efforts are very much appreciated.

#### Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

#### Boscaí Thrócaire 2019

Tá na boscaí Thrócaire sna séipéil ar fud na tíre ó thús an Charghais. Iarrtar orainn i mbliana teacht i gcabhair ar mhuintir Uganda, Guatamala, an Liobáin agus tíortha uile an tríú domhain. Cuireadh an eagraíocht Trócaire ar bun sa bhliain 1973. Tacaíonn sé le pobail ina n-iarrachtaí chun feabhas a chur ar a saol, freastal ar a riachtanais bhunúsacha agus dínit an duine a chinntiú.

Bhí muintir na hÉireann i gcónaí fial le tíortha an tríú domhain. Tá sé de dhuilgias orainn go léir guí ar son na síochána sna tíortha seo atá á réabadh ag cogaí agus teacht i gcabhair orthu trí mhaoiniú a sholáthair do Thrócaire agus na cumainn charthanachta éagsúla.

**Go gcaithimid go fial le Trócaire an Carghas seo.** Tá tús curtha le Seachtain na Gaeilge a bheidh ar siúl go dtí lá 'le Pádraig.

Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í, ag ceiliúradh ár n-oidhreacht ársa idir teanga, dúchais, ceol, damhsa, amhránaíocht agus litríocht gach bliain i rith na seachtaine seo. Go maire an Ghaeilge slán.  
Seo a leanas paidir do Ghaeilgeoirí: **A Thiarna, soilsigh ár n-aigne chun urraim a thabhairt don oidhreacht uasal a tháinig chugainn tríd ár dteanga, agus neartaigh ár dtoil chun í a shlánú agus a láidriú chun do ghlóire féin agus onóir na hÉireann trí Chríost ár dTiarna Áiméan.**

The Trócaire boxes are available in all churches throughout the country since the beginning of Lent. We are invited to be generous towards the people of Uganda, Guatamala, Lebanon and other third world countries. The Trócaire organisation was established in 1973. It supports communities in their efforts to improve their lives, meet their basic needs and ensure human dignity. The Irish people have always been generous to third world countries. We have an obligation to pray for peace in these countries which are being devastated by wars and come to their aid by providing funding for various charities.

Seachtain na Gaeilge will continue until Saint Patrick's Day. This week is marked in Ireland and throughout the world and celebrates our ancient culture, language, music, songs and literature. Long live the Irish language

Prayer for Irish speakers: **Lord, you spoke to the nations in their own languages on Pentecost Sunday. Enlighten our minds to respect the noble heritage that came to us through our language, and increase our desire to secure and strengthen it for your glory and the honour of Ireland through Christ our Lord. Amen**