

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

### Psalter Week 1

#### Parish Finances

We acknowledge and thank parishioners for their generosity and support of the Parish. The amount donated week ending 9/10th November was **€3,032.00**

#### Padre Pio Mass Thursday 21st @ 7.30pm

The Rosary in honour of the Holy Souls will be recited in the Church of the Annunciation Carrig on Sunday 24th November at 3pm. All Welcome

**Carrig, Riverstown & Killeen Active Retirement Group** - Chair Yoga with Nessa Feehan Carrig Hall Commencing Friday 15th Nov for 4 weeks 12-1pm. €40 for 4 classes or €12 per class. Contact Mary 086-8792096

**Lunch Clubs** – Offaly Healthy Homes Project in conjunction with Birr Rugby Club. Our Next Lunch Club will take place on Wed 20th Nov 2024 from 12.30- 3.30pm in Birr Rugby Club. For just €10 pp you will get to enjoy a lovely dinner Tea/Coffee and great Entertainment. Contact Shirley on 0872175998 if you are interested in attending'.

**Join us for Quiz Night!** Looking for a fun way to spend your evening? Come along to our Quiz Night on November 21st at the Rugby Club in Birr! Time: 6:30-8:00 PM, for more info or to book your spot, contact: Aoife: 087 738 5989 or Stephanie: 086 833 6873. Free event, 18+.

### Refurbishments

This past week we have had to upgrade and replace our fire alarm system in St. Brendan's the work has been carried out by Lir Fire Protection, Tullamore at a cost of €14,471.00.

#### November 18th - November 20th

St. Brendan's The Bishop and Priest of the Diocese are meeting for 3 days of prayer & reflection Sunday November 17th to Wednesday November 20th - so for the 3 days Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday there will be Community lay led liturgies each morning with readings of the Word of God, Prayers of Intercession and distribution of the Eucharist.

## Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 16th	10am	Private Intentions
Sat 16th	7.30pm	Gloria Hansbury, Syngefield Mary Camon, Bulfin Park Bessie Loughnane, Woodlands Margaret Roe, Woodlands Park Lizzie Kelly, Presentation Place Vincent & Margaret Daly & Family, Raheenmoyle
Sun 17th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 17th	9.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 17th	10.30am	Kieran Kelly, River Oaks, Riverstown Mary Loonam, Annagh
Sun 17th	12noon	Michael Purcell, Roscrea Road Jim Fogarty, Roscrea Road Catherine McGilton, Cappaneale Michael & May Kenneally & son Des, Seffin Billy Joyce & daughter Jill Tully & The Tully Family, Crinkill
Mon 18th	10am	<b>Community Led Liturgy</b>
Tues 19th	10am	<b>Community Led Liturgy</b>
Wed 20th	10am	<b>Community Led Liturgy</b>
Thurs 21st	10am	Patrick Hutchinson, Cappaneale Winnifer Shields and her husband Paul John & Julie McDonagh & the McDonagh Family
Thurs 21st	7.30pm	Padre Pio Mass
Fri 22nd	10am	Lucy Gormley, Woodlands Adelaide & JP Murphy & Maureen O' Neill (née) Murphy, John's Mall & Limerick Sean Murphy & Joseph Murphy John's Mall
Sat 23rd	10am	Paddy & Ellen Mellsop, daughter Pauline & son Ben & Hazel Mellsop Paul O' Dwyer & Margaret McCarthy, Kilkenny
Sat 23rd	7.30pm	O' Meara Family, Clonkelly Mahon Family, Grove Street Frank, Josephine & Dolores Higgins Joseph Daly, Clonkelly Kevin Abbott, Scurragh
Sun 24th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 24th	9.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 24th	10.30am	<b>Frances Byron , Seffin Avenue (1st Ann)</b> Michael & Agnes Parkinson & Son Cronan, The Crescent Annie & Paddy Mannion, Clonoghill Bernie Sheeran & the Sheeran Family, William Street Aherne Family, Townsend Street Peggy & Jack Mc Donagh, Dublin
Sun 24th	12noon	Mary Burke, Burkes Hill Joseph Grimes, Cappaneale Bobby Shiels, Whiteford Oliver Craughwell, Woodlands Park & his deceased Parents & Sisters

## New Book Celebrates St. Brendan's R.C. Church's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 St. Brendan's R.C. Church celebrated the bicentenary of its completion, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1824. Over 20 decades the church has been at the center of life for the Roman Catholic population of Birr Parish. It was one of the first Irish R.C. churches to be completed on such a scale since the relaxation of penal laws. In 1824 Roman Catholic and dissenter populations were tolerated if they kept things below the radar. St. Brendan's however, with its gothic revival architecture and 124 feet 6-inch spire certainly was not below the radar. It was also built in a most prominent position overlooking the weir on the Cam Cor River. This was thanks to the local landlord Laurence Parsons, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Rosse. Laurence not only donated the site but contributed £100 and a quarry of stone to complete the building. It is safe to say that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Rosse was a truly ecumenical gentleman who was a leading light in the realms of tolerance and inter-community relations. This is just one aspect of the building's history recorded for posterity by local historian and pastoral council chairperson Brian Kennedy, in his new book 'A Place in All Our Hearts.' Brian is well known in Midland historical circles and was chairperson of Birr Historical Society for over 10 years. Generations of locals will remember Brian from their days in St. Brendan's Community School, where he has taught English and History for over three decades. He studied History, English, and Philosophy at U.C.D. where he subsequently obtained his Higher Diploma in Education. Frequently, Brian's guided historical walks of Birr's historic core draw up to 150 patrons and have become a staple of Vintage Week and Arts Festival, each August. He also delights in giving historical tours of Birr Castle Demesne where he shares his great knowledge of the Parsons family's 400-year association with the demesne. In choosing the title of the book Brian was keen to capture the place St. Brendan's R.C. Church holds in the hearts of all Birr people. He is keen to stress that he has recorded the history of the building, but it is the individual memories of each parishioner that make it a special place. It is indeed holy ground sanctified by 200 years of countless prayers by individuals and congregations. This is a fantastic opportunity to acquire a book that will be a great present for anyone with an association with Birr Parish.

**The book with a myriad of pictures of the building will be launched in St. Brendan's Church, by Bishop Fintan Monaghan, on 29th November next, at 7.30 p.m. The launce will take part in the context of an ecumenical service to mark the Feast of St. Brendan of Birr, to whom the church is dedicated.**

## Sr. Eileen - Cúinne

### World Day of the Poor

Today is World Day of the Poor. Pope Francis announced at the end of the Year of Mercy 2016 that this particular Sunday be devoted to the Poor. The theme given to us by the Pope this year is "Do not look away from the poor". Mercy reduces poverty and increases hope. Saint Vincent de Paul said "The poor are our masters. Christ himself is among us". On this Sunday we can reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy:

**To feed the hungry.**  
**To give water to the thirsty.**  
**To clothe the naked.**  
**To shelter the homeless.**  
**To visit the sick.**  
**To visit the imprisoned.**  
**To bury the dead.**



### Sacramental Masses

We welcome the children from St. Brendan's P.S. who



will be participating in 7.30pm Mass, Carrig N.S. who will be participating in 9.30am Mass in Carrig. Killeen N.S. & The Parish Preparation Programme who will be participating in the 10.30am Mass

### Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday November 21st @ 8.15pm following the St. Padre Pio Mass in the Conference Room.

### Please pray for the souls of

Mick Hogan, Seffin, Hillside  
Teresa Mann, Banagher sister of Rena Haverty, Moorpark Street  
Fr. Joe McMahon A.P., Scarriff  
Seamus Breslin, Gurtillerybeg, Roscrea brother of Martin Breslin, Whiteford & father of Martina Breslin County Arms Hotel  
George Vaughn, Garbally, Birr



**Sponsored by Carrig Cemetery Committee**