

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

Thank you

A sincere Thank You to all who have helped during our Christmas Liturgies.

Parish Finances

We acknowledge and thank parishioners for their generosity and support of the Parish. The amount donated week ending 21/22nd December was **€3,230.00**

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.

The Adoration Chapel will re-open Thursday January 2nd.

History of St. Brendan's "A place in all our Hearts" by Brian Kennedy on sale in the Parish office, Horan's Daybreak, Supervalu & Birr Castle for €15.00.

Nenagh Pilgrimage to Medjugorie 2025 : Joe Walshes. Date, 2nd July to 9th July 2025 Departing from Cork Arriving in Dubrovnik. We Celebrate the 44th Anniversary this year. All are welcome. Accompanied by Father Rexon our Spiritual Director. The price is €879. RECEIVE €100 OFF, if Paid in Full by December 20th. For more details please contact Seán & Elaine Connolly, 085 863 6371 or 067 32178,

The Parish Office will re-open on Friday 3rd January 2025

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 28th	10am	Tom Cooke, Crinkill (1st Ann) Patricia & Willie Power, Oxmantown Mall John Gleeson, The Green
Sat 28th	7.30pm	Peter & Pauline O' Meara, Clonkelly Michael & Jack Clery, Castetown & deceased family members
Sun 29th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 29th	9.30am	Rita O' Brien & her grandson Rian O' Brien
Sun 29th	10.30am	John & Bea Irwin, Syngefield John Taaffe, Gurteen
Sun 29th	12noon	Gerry Dolan, Wilmer Road (1st Ann) Sarah Nugent, Green Street
Mon 30th	10am	James McEvoy, Presentation Place (1st Ann)
Tues 31st	10am	Mour Badiane, Rosscahill, Galway & Birr Michael, Annie & Teresa Duffy
Wed 1st	11am	O' Sullivan Family, Emmett Street
Thurs 2nd	10am	Private Intentions
Fri 3rd	10am	Private Intentions
Sat 4th	10am	Private Intentions
Sat 4th	7.30pm	Agnes Pardy, Brigid Fogarty & Evan Hogan, High Street Tommy & John Dunican, Castletown Peter Dunican, Kent, England
Sun 5th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 5th	9.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 5th	10.30am	Cathy Curley, Castlecourt Denis Guinan, Lisheen
Sun 5th	12noon	Gerry & Mary Hoare and son Fintan, Railway Road

Please pray for the souls of

Teresa Corrigan, Kinnitty, sister of Seamus Kealey, Sandymount
Nora Dooley, Fancroft, mother of Breda King, Crinkill
Catherine Fallon, Garrycastle, Athlone, sister of Jackie Delahunt, Riverstown, Birr
Larry Delaney, Roscrea father of Ann Higgins, staff of Birr Community Nursing Unit & step-brother of Liam Delaney, Burkes Hill



"I lit a candle for a friend today. The light from it to guide is way in to your arms sweet Jesus".

Happy New Year & Every Blessing for 2025

Feast of the Epiphany

We celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** on January 6th It celebrates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. We also know it as Little Christmas or Nollaig na mBan.

Monday 6th January
St. Brendan's at 10.00 a.m & 7.30 p.m

Journey of the Magi

T. S. Eliot

"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter."
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away,
and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream
and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern
with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt.
I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.
bring hope to many after the difficult year that was 2021.

Prayer for the New Year

God of all time,
help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are
to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak
only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,
help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant,
every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honour rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,
help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.
In this new year,
may the grace and peace of Christ
bless us now and in the days ahead.

Vinita Hampton Wright

Wildflowers

I'm grateful
for simple wildflowers,
renegades of beauty,
paying no heed to the proper place,
or the acceptable way
to rise up in Glory.

Their Seeds fall
into waiting earth
with a passionate embrace.

No fenced boundaries,
no limits on their joy,
savouring sun and rain
they root and grow,
singing in the breeze,
content and free.
Oh, Wildflowers,
grow and sing inside of me!

Mary Oliver

Sponsored by Birr Town F.C