

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 3

Parish Finances

We acknowledge and thank parishioners for their generosity and support of the Parish. The amount donated week ending 4/5th January was **€2,014.50**.

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

Padre Pio Mass Thursday January 16th @ 7.30pm

Midland Living Links supporting those bereaved by suicide. Coffee Morning 14th January, Conference room in St. Brendan's Church after 10.00 a.m. mass. All welcome

Carrig, Riverstown & Killeen Active Retirement Group - Chair Yoga with Nessa Feehan Carrig Hall Commencing Friday 17th January for 5 weeks 12-1pm. €50 for 5 classes. Contact Mary 086-8792096

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre- New Programme of Events (Jan – April) is in circulation NOW! Thursday's selection of Film@BirrTheatre commences 16 Jan at 8pm. All are welcome. www.birrtheatre.com

Birr Historical Society - "Offaly-America"
Uileann Piper, Bernard Delaney of Tullamore. Talk will focus on his life, story behind his enrolment into the elite Irish Music Club of the Chicago police department. Live music David Kinsella Monday January 13th @ 8pm in the County Arms Hotel

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 Medjugorje 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,

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 11th	10am	Mary McNamara, Moorpark Street (MM) Private Intention
Sat 11th	7.30pm	Padraig Gibbons, Glebe Street (MM) Tommy & Myra Wrafter, New Road Anne & John Sherlock, Killeen William & Josephine Kealey, Clonoghill Lower Jimmy Lally, Cul dara, Dove grove
Sun 12th	8.30am	Private Intentions
Sun 12th	9.30am	Denis Byrne & Family, Tinnakelly Carrig
Sun 12th	10.30am	Mary Wynne, Hillside (MM) Margaret Doyle, Croghan Road Elizabeth O' Meara, Fortal Patrick & Margaret O' Meara
Sun 12th	12noon	Sr. Maeve Quinlan, Convent of Mercy Riverside, Birr (MM) Agnes & Gerry O' Brien, Westgate Teresa Sharkey, Joe Sharkey & Dan Meleady Des & Eileen Talbot, Hillside
Mon 13th	10am	Private Intentions
Tues 14th	10am	Private Intentions
Wed 15th	10am	Peter McGrath, Presentation Place Arthur McDonagh, Ferbane
Thurs 16th	10am	Michael & Margaret Quinn, Sons Pat, Bill, Noel & Brendan, daughters Peg Hayes & Josephine Quinn & brother in law's Jimmy Hayes & Mick Clear
Thurs 16th	7.30pm	Padre Pio Mass
Fri 17th	10am	Private Intentions
Sat 18th	10am	Private Intentions
Sat 18th	7.30pm	Jim & Mollie Brien, Pound Street Kitty & Joe Dooley, Lisheen Liam Martin, Cappaneale
Sun 19th	8.30am	Margaret O' Neill, New Road
Sun 19th	9.30am	Bernadette Turner, Carrig (1st Ann) , her husband Tom & son Gareth
Sun 19th	10.30am	Eamon (Ned) Sheeran, William Street (MM) Rita Scully, Fortal
Sun 19th	12noon	Geraldine Bergin, Emmett Street Geoffrey Liffey, Hillside John Claffey & Family, Moorpark Street Donal Ryan, Leinster Villas Noel, Joan & Coleman Corboy

Please pray for the souls of

Elizabeth Ruth Higgins, Carrig & formerly Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Fr. Sean Murphy, retired P.P of Milltown

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



What is Heaven?

Or as Matthew asks:
'What is the Kingdom of heaven?'

It is many things, he tells us,
It is a field, it is a seed,
it is a fisherman's net,
It is a 'valuable hidden treasure', it is the
Gnashing of teeth when we cannot find it,
Or when we cannot enter it.
There is always an elite, let in,
We remain outside in the dark
Cursing our fate and our past rejections.
What we do and what we did
Has eternal consequences.
The pearl of great price will not elude us
If we search in the small spaces,
the little places,
We never reach heaven
because we deserve it-
It is a gift, it is a grace, we have
been saying forever,
Thy Kingdom come, it is now
and not yet now,
It is pending perhaps in this very moment:

Is heaven the thrush's eggs?
Or thrush's mottled breast?
Or the summer hang of chestnuts,
Waiting their ripeness in a wealth of green?

The squirrel's tail is all fluffed with joy.
She has found an array of bulbs,
underground,
Snowdrops, full of food to fatten her up,
right now,
No deferred gratification, no saving up
For the inclement day.
Heaven is now and here
Before the shadows lengthen,
before the rough winds
Unease the leaves of the
high-reaching beech;
Before we make fast the door against
The prevailing winds. Before the year dives
Into its trough of darkness -
there is heaven now
In these observed moments,
these cross-sections
Of the world in which we find ourselves,
Charmed by the egg, the seed, the field-
The thrush sings, full to us,
with heartening ease
In notes of unblemished confidence.

Dr. Rita Kelly

Sr. Eileen - Cúinne Féile Bhaiste Ár dTiarna

Nuair a baisteadh ár dTiarna sa Iordán thréig sé an saol príobháideach. Ghlac sé le mian a Athar agus thug sé aghaidh ar shaol poiblí a chríochnódh ar Chnoc Chalvaire. On lá sin amach tá sé mar chrann taca ag na bochtáin, mar eiseamláir den fhírinne agus mar dhóchas dóibh siúd atá éadóchasach. Tá dlúthbhaint idir ár mbaisteadh féin agus baisteadh Íosa. Táimid baiste in ainm na Tríonóide. Ba é Comhartha na Croise an chéad phaidir a d'fhoghláomar agus gach uair a deirimid é táimid ag cur in iúl ár muinín agus ár ndílseacht mar dheisceabail ár dTiarna. Tá 2025 fógartha ag an bPápa Prionsias mar Bhliain na hIubháil. Is é téama na bliana: Go neartaí dóchas ár saol. A Íosa a cheannaigh mé , a Íosa a bheannaigh mé, Le saol na saol go raibh mé i bhFlaitheas leat. Áiméan

Baptism of Our Lord

After Jesus was baptised in the Jordan he forsook his private life. He accepted his Father's will and undertook his public life which culminated in his crucifixion on Mount Calvary. Since then he is champion of the poor, exemplar of truth and hope of those who have lost hope. Our Baptism is closely related to that of Jesus. We are baptized in the name of the Trinity. The Sign of The Cross was the first prayer we learned and each time we repeat it we are acknowledging our trust and our faithfulness as disciples of Jesus. Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 a Jubilee Year. The theme is: May hope fill our days.

Jesus who died for me, Jesus who has blessed me,
May I be with you in Heaven for eternity.
Amen

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