

OUR LADY AND ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH TRALEE



Parish 2021
NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION BY FR PADRAIG WALSH PP.

The past year has been the most remarkable in our lifetime. Many people began the year 2020 with plans and assumptions for the year ahead. Since last February our world has been turned upside down and inside out. We all remember the sense of fear last March, watching the mass burials in Italy and wondering what was ahead of us. We remember the lockdown until June and the gradual easing of restrictions. We remember the return to level five restrictions from October 21st, but we didn't expect another severe lockdown in the autumn.

We were delighted to have the churches open again for Christmas, though with very limited numbers. Sadly, as Christmas drew closer, the announcement of severe restrictions once again was a huge blow. The return to public Masses was short lived and the level five restrictions were introduced again on St Stephen's Day. The escalating numbers of Covid cases and deaths in January were a grim and fearful start to 2021. The prospect of the vaccine was the only light at the end of the tunnel.

The early months of the new year have been a very difficult time again for families coping with the death of a loved one, for couples

re-scheduling their wedding, and new parents waiting for the baptism of their child. We also feel for children in the sacramental classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Naturally, these celebrations will be unable to take place until the churches are open for public Masses and when it is safe to have such family gatherings.

As priests, we have been blessed with support and concern during the restrictions. It has probably been easier on myself, having been in the parish for eleven years. However, Fr Amos has settled in well despite the restrictions, enjoying the contact with people when public Masses had resumed, the occasional visits to the primary schools and managing the pronunciation of local place names.

It seems most likely that our Easter ceremonies will be celebrated on-line again this year. As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter, may the Risen Lord bless you with hope during the weeks and months ahead. On behalf of Fr Amos, Sr de Lourdes and myself, I wish you and yours, every blessing during this Easter season.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONY TIMES

Holy Thursday:

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

Good Friday:

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm

Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm

Holy Saturday:

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

Easter Vigil: 8pm

Easter Sunday:

Mass at 10am



CHRISTMAS 2020

Christmas is a special time for most people. It is an important religious feast but also a significant family and community occasion. It can lift the spirits in people, families and communities. The easing of restrictions in December and the return to public Masses was a huge relief as Christmas drew near. We knew it would be a very different Christmas but we appreciated that it could be celebrated.

The prospect of organising Christmas Masses with very restricted numbers was a daunting task. The Parish Pastoral Council decided on a ticket system, making the free tickets available in mid-December (see front-page cover photo). There were four Christmas Eve Masses and three more on Christmas Day. The people who got tickets were delighted and those who didn't were very understanding of the limitations. The ticket system worked well as people knew

when they had a ticket that they wouldn't be left outside! Some people chose to listen to Mass in their cars as it was relayed by loudspeaker. (see photos on p.9) . It was certainly a Christmas celebration with a difference. The sense of being so different was more deeply felt at the late vigil Mass, without Miriam Murphy. The difficult year of 2020 was made even more difficult with her sudden and unexpected death last July. As we cherish the memories of Christmas Eve Masses and her singing of "O Holy Night", let us pray for the repose of her soul and for her family who feel the pain of her loss most of all. May she rest in peace.

Let us pray for a blessed year ahead and that we will have a "normal" Christmas this year, both as a religious feast and as a celebration for families and communities.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Saturday 26th

Sunday 27th

Admittance

by Ticket only

All Masses on the webcam

Christmas Eve 6.30pm on Radio Kerry

The poster features several illustrations: a holly leaf with a red berry, a lit candle, a starburst, and a nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the three wise men.

HOLY WEEK QUIZ

1. The Sunday before Easter Sunday is called?
2. Who helped Jesus carry his cross?
3. The day before Holy Thursday is called?
4. How many Stations in the way of the Cross are there?
5. The three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are known as?
6. At the trial of Jesus, the crowd called for the release of what criminal?
7. Jesus was greeted with palm branches as he entered which city?
8. At the Easter Vigil, the Easter Proclamation which is sung is known as?
9. The holy oils for the coming year are blessed at which Mass?
10. Who wiped the face of Jesus on his way to Calvary?
11. Where did the Agony in the garden take place?
12. Who was the first to discover that Jesus had risen?
13. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means?
14. Who denied Jesus three times?
15. On the cross, what did the letter INRI stand for?
16. Who made arrangements for the burial of Jesus?
17. Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated on which day of Holy Week?
18. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of gold. True or false?
19. "I am the Alpha and the Omega" says the Lord. What do Alpha and Omega mean?
20. What is the twelfth station?

ANSWERS

1. Palm Sunday
2. Simon of Cyrene
3. Spy Wednesday
4. 14.
5. The Triduum
6. Barabbas
7. Jerusalem
8. The Exultet.
9. The Chrism Mass.
10. Veronica.
11. Gethsemane
12. Mary Magdalene
13. "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"
14. Peter.
15. King of the Jews.
16. Joseph of Arimathea.
17. Holy Thursday
18. False – Silver.
19. The beginning and the end.
20. Crucifixion of Jesus.

NAMES IN THE BIBLE WORD PUZZLE

Find all the names on the puzzle. The names can be spelled left to right, right to left, up and down or diagonally.

I	D	E	L	I	L	A	H	H	W	S	E	A	A
R	E	H	B	A	R	A	B	B	A	S	B	A	R
C	D	E	E	R	R	J	A	E	T	D	L	H	R
T	R	R	L	T	E	R	T	R	E	U	B	E	N
E	E	J	I	W	S	A	R	A	H	N	R	C	E
R	E	Z	Z	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	L	I	M
B	E	B	A	J	A	C	O	B	I	Y	R	Z	A
W	D	T	B	N	C	P	R	R	R	R	E	E	A
E	E	R	E	O	H	H	B	E	A	A	B	B	S
H	B	B	T	L	Y	A	T	S	H	M	E	A	N
T	E	A	H	R	S	R	B	T	C	H	C	T	A
T	Z	E	E	M	Z	A	E	H	E	M	C	T	B
A	A	B	H	A	Y	O	A	E	Z	A	A	E	R
M	Z	J	E	A	R	H	B	R	B	J	Z	A	Z



Abraham
Jacob
Mary
Matthew
Sarah

Elizabeth
Zebedee
Reuben
Rebecca
Barabbas

Esther
Pharaoh
Delilah
Zechariah



Special Diocesan Collections 2020

	2019	2020
Ardfert Retreat Centre	€ 1,070	000
Diocesan Needs	€ 1,360	000
Diocesan Youth Service	€ 1,420	000
Education of Priests	€ 1,935	000
Emigrant Services	€ 1,390	000
Holy Land Collection	€ 1,470	€ 1,230
Irish Church Commissions & Agencies	€ 985	000
Accord	€ 1,155	000
Lourdes Helpers	€ 2,675	€ 2,230
Peter's Pence	€ 1,605	000
Propagation of the Faith	€ 1,405	€ 435
Sick & Retired Priests	€ 4,165	€ 3,175
Trocaire	€ 10,067	€ 7,994
Trocaire Gifts		€ 1,885
World Meeting of Families	€ 892	
TOTAL	€ 31,594	€ 16,949

PARISH ACCOUNTS 2020

Last year, Mass was celebrated without congregations for 25 Sundays and 3 holydays. It was obvious that there would be a significant shortfall in the Parish income. The Development Fund collection held considerably well and sincere thanks to all those who contributed so generously during the year. The Offertory Collection took a severe hit, due to Masses without congregations, down €100,301 (66%). Given the lockdown last March, we were unable to have a Silver Circle and the Pastoral Centre

income was reduced without groups using the facilities and activities taking place. Overall, the shortfall is €22,525. Despite the shortfall, we have been able to continue to provide an office back-up as well as being able to carry out any necessary maintenance.

We appreciate the financial difficulties of many families due to Covid and we want to express our sincere thanks for your generous support of the Parish and Clergy Collections during the year.
Mile buíochas.

DEVELOPMENT FUND INCOME	2019	2020
	€	€
Envelope Collection & Standing Orders	55,964	52,620
Silver Circle	31,764	000
TOTAL	€ 87,728	€ 52,620

CURRENT ACCOUNT INCOME	2019	2020
	€	€
Offertory Collections	158,300	57,999
Shrines /Cribs	24,305	15,986
Pastoral Centre	20,106	8,005
Booklets, Newspapers & Cards	3,180	495
Income Tax Refunds	21,759	24,418
TOTAL	€ 227,650	€ 106,903

TOTAL PARISH INCOME	€ 315,378	€ 159,523
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CURRENT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE	2019	2020
	€	€
Wages, PAYE & PRSI	46,807	34,019
Service Charges & Fees	1,930	2,259
Insurance, Security & Webcam	8,806	8,410
Light & Heat	17,907	12,175
Repairs & Maintenance	40,591	48,746
Telephone	2,983	2,955
Printing/Postage/Stationery	6,465	8,480
Altar Requisites/Shrines & Crib	12,599	8,150
Missalettes/Booklets/Magazines	4,519	2,889
Education/Pastoral Programmes	7,373	4,820
Diocesan Levy* / Health Insurance / Rathmore Fund **	37,217	35,989
Courses/Hospitality	19,740	11,895
Bank Charges	1,975	1,261
Sundries	400	00

TOTAL PARISH EXPENDITURE	€ 209,312	€ 182,048
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* The Diocesan levy of 15% (€32,739) on Parish income goes towards the administration costs of the diocese.

** The Parish contributes to the Sick and Retired Priests Fund, which is called the Rathmore Fund.

PARISH COLLECTIONS AT SUNDAY MASS

1. Offertory Collection

The weekly offertory collection is taken up during weekend Masses. It is used for the day-to-day expenses of the parish. These include: staff wages, insurance, light & heat, routine maintenance, telephone and printing.

The total contribution to the Offertory Collection in 2020 was €57,999.

2. Envelope Collection (Capital Development Fund)

This collection is taken up after Holy Communion as the weekly envelope collection. This fund is used to finance major works to parish property such as the upgrading the external lighting and webcam last year. The total contribution in 2020 was €52,620. If you attend Mass in St John's Parish or in the Dominican Church, your envelopes are returned to our Parish.

We ask you to consider supporting it in one of the following four ways.

1. Weekly envelope collection. If you not receiving a box of envelopes, please contact the Parish office.

2. Annual Cheque.

3. Standing Order. This is a convenient method for parishioners. If you would like to contribute to the Capital Development Fund by Standing Order, please contact the Parish Office.

4. On-line donations using the Donate button on the parish website.

3. Priests Income

The priests income comes from two sources:

Envelope Collections during the year.

- November Offerings
- Christmas Dues
- Easter Dues

Offerings given for:

- Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

The household expenses of the presbytery are paid by the priests.

Priests are considered to be self-employed by the Revenue Commissioners and pay their own income tax and PRSI directly each year. We would like to thank all who have contributed to the income of the priests. Your generous support is very much appreciated.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Every parish is required to have a finance committee to assist the parish priest in the administration of the parish finances. The role of the finance committee includes the approval of spending on maintenance and capital projects, effective financial controls in the handling of all monies, approval and control of all fundraising activities, the formal review of parish accounts annually and the publication of parish financial reports to the parishioners. The committee meets four times each year and its members are Michael Hickey (chairman), Jacqui O'Brien (secretary), Fr Padraig Walsh, Sean Geary and Phil Luddy.

Tax Refund

The Revenue Commissioners have approved a scheme of tax relief for eligible charities. From 1st January 2013 all tax relief on contributions from parishioners over €250 regardless of their tax status i.e. (Self Assessed or PAYE) will now go to the Parish in all cases at a blended rate of 31%. These contributions need to be given in any of the envelope collections; the envelope collections for the priests and the Development Fund. If you have contributed more than €250, we will send you the relevant form to complete. In 2020, the amount received from the Revenue Commissioners was €24,418.

CHRISTMAS DAY 2020



MY EXPERIENCE IN IRELAND – FR AMOS



It is now over a year and a half since I left Kenya for Ireland. My experience so far has been interesting and very positive. The support I have received from the community here

is most encouraging. Even though I am away from home, the community of St. Brendan's has given me a new home, a new family, and new friends.

I remember early last year in February 2020, I travelled to Wicklow to visit retired priests of St. Patrick's Missionary Society in Kiltegan. It was a wonderful experience to meet and interact with many priests who had served in Kenya and especially in my home diocese. Sharing memories of their work in Kenya made me feel close to my home and my people.

I had just returned from my trip to Kiltegan when the Covid 19 pandemic struck. The whole world was fearful, regulations were put in place and since then, life for me has never been the same again. Everything changed, the way we carry out our services in the church took a different turn, meeting and interacting with people was stopped, and all movements except for the essential workers were restricted. Visiting schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and the house bounds were either stopped or restricted.

The pandemic brought a lot of fear to people. I remember my family and especially my mother calling me regularly to ask me if I was safe. At the same time, I was afraid of what might happen to them in case the virus hit my own country and things got worse. Every time I talked to them, they tell me they are fine which gives me comfort and relief.

Since I arrived in this parish last August, the restrictions have made life difficult. However, I have enjoyed my limited visits to the primary schools of Listellick and Holy Family. I am very grateful for their welcome and I look forward to celebrating the First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies later this year. I have also enjoyed my contact with the pupils and staff in St Ita's and St Joseph's, and I appreciate the warm welcome I have received from them.

While the numbers attending funerals are very limited, I have benefitted from my contact with those families at such a difficult time for them. Recently I have met some couples who have been trying to arrange their weddings or unfortunately discussing the postponement of their big day.



Fr Amos with 2 nephews and their friends.



Members of his extended family and some friends

On a practical note, I was delighted to pass my driving test last December. I'm sure Fr Padraig, my chauffeur until then, was even more delighted!! While I was delighted to pass my test, I'm now restricted to 5k!! However, I had to attend two burials recently, one in Ardfert and the other in Beaufort. These sad occasions were also opportunities for me to visit new parts of the diocese. It was easy to get there as I followed the hearse, but the adventure was finding my way back!! I've also learned that Kerry people are very passionate about their sport, especially football. I look forward to an easing of restrictions when I can attend a match and shout for the Green and Gold – Ciarraí Abú!!

Since we have no congregations since Christmas, we have the blessing of being able to reach out through the webcam and Radio Kerry. I think I'm improving on some of the pronunciations of the Irish placenames such Lyreacrompane and Gneeveguilla!

Finally, in the absence of congregations at Mass, I'm grateful for the help and support of the parish staff – their patience and assistance is very much appreciated. While these weeks are difficult for everyone, I look forward to the opportunity to meeting many parishioners in my ministry and to better times in the months ahead.



Children attending a special Sunday Mass in preparation for the sacraments



New Year Blessing

May the Lord bless you
and keep you.
May his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
May he look upon you
with kindness
and give you his peace.

ONLINE DONATIONS



DONATE

It is now possible to make an on-line donations to St. Brendan's Parish weekly Offertory Collection or Development Fund as well as the Clergy Collections at Easter, November and Christmas.

Please visit: **www.stbrendansparishtralee.org** and use the **DONATE** button and follow the instructions.

PARISH STATISTICS:

	2019	2020
Baptisms:	88	55
Confirmations:	131	137
Weddings:	10	1
Funerals:	69	75

PARISH OFFICE



Find us on
Facebook

Monday - Friday:
9.00am - 12.30pm.

Telephone: 066 7125932
Email: stbrendans@dioceseofkerry.ie
Web: www.stbrendansparishtralee.org

Many thanks to photographer John Cleary who provided many photographs for this year's booklet.