

OUR LADY AND ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH TRALEE



Easter NEWSLETTER

Easter Ceremonies

Our Lady & St Brendan's Church

Holy Thursday:	Morning Prayer at 9.30am Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm (no other Mass today)
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 9pm
Easter Sunday:	10am; 11.15am & 12.30pm



Balloonagh Convent Chapel

Easter Sunday:	8.45am
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Parish Statistics 2010

<i>Baptisms:</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>Funerals:</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Weddings:</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Confirmations:</i>	<i>149</i>

Dates of Significant Events

April 17th	Palm Sunday.	May 28th	Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn First Holy Communion.
April 24th	Easter Sunday.	May 29th	Silver Circle – First Draw.
May 7th	Listellick First Holy Communion.	June 11th	Renewal of Marriage Vows.
May 14th	Balloonagh First Holy Communion.	June 26th	Corpus Christi Procession to Gallowsfield.
May 21st	Holy Family First Holy Communion.	Sept 10th	Blessing of babies baptised in 2010.
May 21st	Balloonagh ASD Unit First Holy Communion.	Nov 18th	Mass for those who died during the year.

Introduction by Fr. Padraig Walsh P.P.

This past year has been a busy one, with much activity and excitement. The 40th anniversary of the church has given us a great opportunity to celebrate. We have looked back to the past with a great sense of pride and achievement. The celebrations have given us a lift and some encouragement when there was much doom and gloom in the world around us. The celebrations have enhanced our sense of a Parish community. The recent works in the church and its environs have given us a place of worship that we can be very proud of, and the envy of many.

This newsletter gives a taste of some of the highlights of the past year. It gives some information about aspects of life in our parish and in our Kerry diocese. It also contains the financial statement for 2010, with a statement of the income and expenditure, as well as the special diocesan collections.

Many thanks to all who have an active part in the parish. We are very grateful for your on-going dedication and involvement. If you are not directly involved, we invite you to become involved in some aspect of parish life. If you have insights or suggestions, your ideas are always welcome.

In these difficult financial times, your generous financial support of the priests and the parish is very much appreciated. Mile buíochas.

On behalf of Fr Patsy, Sr de Lourdes and myself, I wish you and yours every blessing during this Easter season. May the Risen Lord bless you with hope during the weeks and months ahead.

Parish Team 2010



L-R: Fr Patsy Lynch C.C., Fr Padraig Walsh P.P., Sr de Lourdes Fleming, Parish Sister.

Corpus Christi Procession



The Corpus Christi Procession last year took place on Saturday June 5th, after the vigil Mass. The procession went down Rock Street and into Connolly Park. The weeks and days before Corpus Christi were hectic. There was great activity in preparing the area with painting, cleaning and trimming. There was a great atmosphere and a great sense of community spirit also. While many people worked hard, they enjoyed the fun and laughter being together too.



The procession itself was a great experience. It was great that so many people took part and walked in the procession, which concluded with Benediction in Connolly Park. It was lovely to see so many First Holy Communion children taking part. "It was special for me because my dad walked in the procession when he made his Communion too", said John aged 8 years old.

We were blessed with the wonderful weather. There was a great sense of pride for all involved in the organisation of the procession, especially for the residents of Connolly Park. Well done. This year the residents of Gallowsfield will host the procession on Sunday June 26th.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The Parish Pastoral Council is a committee of people that work with the priests of the parish. Its role is to look at the needs of the parish and how the parish can address the needs of different groups of parishioners e.g. the elderly, the sick and young people. It helps to bring the views of parishioners to this "think-tank" and to represent the views of parishioners in all discussions. It has a consultative role but also helps in practical ways when needed.

The present Parish Pastoral Council was formed in February 2010, with some former members remaining and some new members were recruited. The members are: Sr Elizabeth McMahon (chairperson), Michael Quinlan (secretary), Fr. Padraig Walsh P.P, Fr. Patsy Lynch C.C., Sr. de Lourdes, Anna Looby, Catherine Ryan, Eamonn O'Reilly, John Reen and Yvonne O' Brien.

During the past year the PPC helped to organise the 40th anniversary Mass and the Irish Sopranos concert. It has reviewed parish events, to build on our successes and to learn from our mistakes. It has discussed our connection with World Youth Day in August, a Parish Mission and a Parish Survey. Our PPC also works with the other two neighbouring parishes of The Spa and St Johns. If you have any issue that you would like discussed by the Parish Pastoral Council, please contact any member.

Couples celebrating wedding jubilees



Parish Social

The annual Parish Social took place on October 8th last in the Brandon Hotel. After having a beautiful meal, the crowd of 140, were entertained for the night by the O'Callaghan Band. The Social has a long history and is an event that brings back many wonderful memories for our parishioners. It brings a great mix of people together: the people who have lived in the parish for many years and those who are new to the parish. This is one of the highlights of our calendar and hopefully will continue for years to come.



Area Pastoral Council (APC)

Over the past two years, parishes across the dioceses have been encouraged to work together in clusters of parishes called Pastoral Areas. The Tralee Pastoral Area has three parishes – St Brendan's, St John's and The Spa. These parishes work together, e.g. to provide training for ministry groups such as Eucharistic ministers or readers. They support each other for parish programmes for Lent or Advent. The priests give support when help is needed, especially when other priests are ill or on holiday. The mutual co-operation is to help strengthen the individual parishes while co-operating with each other too. Each of the parishes have their own Parish Pastoral Council which usually meets once a month. Three of their members meet with the other parishes in the Area Pastoral Council once a term, to share ideas or to seek their encouragement. The Area Pastoral Council helps to promote a broader view of church life, connecting with other parishes and the diocese.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady & St Brendan's Church and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of a separate parish. It was an exciting year and a busy one too. This is a list of the some celebrations that marked the special year.

April: The completion of the new roof for the church and refurbishment of the church grounds. This marked the end of six months work.

June: Corpus Christi Procession to Connolly Park.

August: Reunion of clergy, including all priests who served in the parish and those who were native to the parish as well as the three Parish Sisters (past and present). This was a very special night of shared memories and experiences.

September: Mass with Bishop Bill Murphy, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Parish and the 40th anniversary of the Church. The Bishop was joined by 28 concelebrating priests.

October: Parish Social in the Brandon Hotel.

November: Reunion of religious living and working in the parish; the Mercy Sisters, Presentation Sisters, Bon Secour Sisters and the Sisters of the Infant Jesus. The men were represented by the St John of Gods and the Christian Brothers.

November: Concert in Our Lady & St Brendan's Church with the Irish Sopranos, Opus 96 and Gael Force.

December: Launch of Parish Magazine, telling some of our parish story from the times before the church was built until the present.



Children of the Parish enjoying the 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Special Diocesan Collections 2010

Ardfert Retreat Centre	€1,475.00
Diocesan Needs	€1,592.00
Diocesan Youth Service	€1,228.00
Education of Priests	€915.00
Emigrant Services	€1,315.00
Eucharistic Congress	€1,175.00
Holy Land Collection	€1,289.00
Irish Church Commissions & Agencies	€890.00
Kerry Mission Outreach	€1,105.00
Lourdes Helpers	€1,073.05
Peter's Pence	€1,811.00
Propagation of the Faith	€2,095.00
Sick & Retired Priests	€2,285.00
Trocaire	€8,068.00
Pakistan Flood Relief	€9,955.00
Haiti Collection	€10,445.05
TOTAL	€46,716.05

The proceeds of these collections were forwarded to the Diocesan Office.

The collection for the Galway Flood victims raised €7,380.

Church Project: The cost of the work to the church roof and grounds is not included in the Repairs and Maintenance figure in the accounts. The amount of the works carried out in 2010 was €157,797. These works were funded by contributions to the Development Fund over many years.

Making A Will: The parish has benefited over the years from donations received from the Wills of parishioners who have died. Their generosity is very much appreciated. To include your parish as a beneficiary in your Will, the following is an example of a possible wording: 'I hereby bequeath to the Parish Priest of the time being of Our Lady and St Brendan's Catholic Church, Tralee, the sum of to be used for the benefit of the Parish.'

Tax Refund: The Revenue Commissioners have approved a scheme of tax relief for eligible charities. If PAYE taxpayers contribute in excess of €250 to the parish – through the Priests and Development Fund collections, the parish can claim tax relief on their annual return of income. If you have contributed more than €250, we will send you the relevant form to complete. In 2010, the amount received from the Revenue Commissioners was €11,378.

DEVELOPMENT FUND INCOME	2010	2009
	€	€
Envelope Collection & Standing Orders	53,937	60,833
Bank Interest	11	10
Fundraising Concert and Draw	44,880	58,258
TOTAL	€ 98,828	€ 119,101
CURRENT ACCOUNT INCOME	2010	2009
	€	€
Offertory Collections	146,553	166,591
Shrines / Crib	18,241	20,060
Bequests	100	150
Pastoral Centre	15,900	15,019
Income Tax Refunds	11,378	12,981
Bookstand & Sundry	1,705	412
TOTAL	€ 193,877	€ 215,213
TOTAL PARISH INCOME	€292,705	€ 334,314
CURRENT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE	2010	2009
	€	€
Light & Heat	14,752	15,073
Altar Requisites/ Shrines & Crib	14,171	11,447
Repairs & Maintenance	108,407	117,492
Wages, PAYE & PRSI	47,759	56,615
Printing / Postage / Stationery	12,355	11,477
Telephone	3,972	3,559
Insurance & Security	7,084	5,723
Education / Pastoral Programmes	6,909	8,539
Diocesan Levy* / V.H.I. / Rathmore Fund**	37,445	45,775
Bank Charges	1,329	1,458
Sundries	1,543	12,912
Courses/Hospitality	10,449	
Missalettes/booklets/Magazines	4,872	
Total Parish Expenditure	€ 267,047	€ 290,070

* The Diocesan levy of 15% (€34,012) on Parish income goes towards the administration costs of the diocese.

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

Irish Sopranos Concert

As the celebrations of last year were drawing to a close, a special concert was held in November. The Irish Sopranos, Deirdre Masterson, Wendy Dwyer and local girl, Kay Lynch gave us a fantastic night of song, entertainment, laughter, and even one or two tearful moments also. While it was a classical concert they entertained the huge crowd with many popular hymns and songs. Favourites like "You raise me up", "Nella Fantasia", "Lady of Knock", "O Mio Bobino Caro", and the wonderful sing-a-long, "You'll never walk alone"!!

The concert also featured the local and highly renowned choir, "Opus 96". Their performances have taken them to international venues, so it was great to have them perform for a local audience. We were blessed also to have a wonderfully talented group of young people in "Gael Force". The future for music in Tralee seems bright with this youthful group. The proceeds of the concert, €3,505 helped to defray the costs of the Church refurbishment.

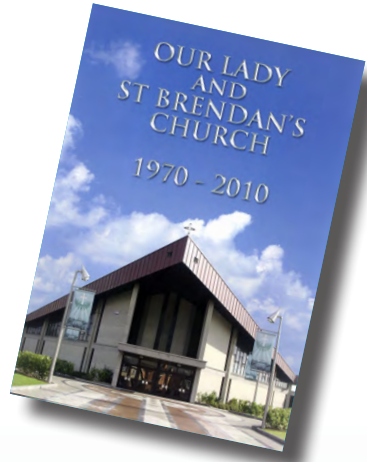
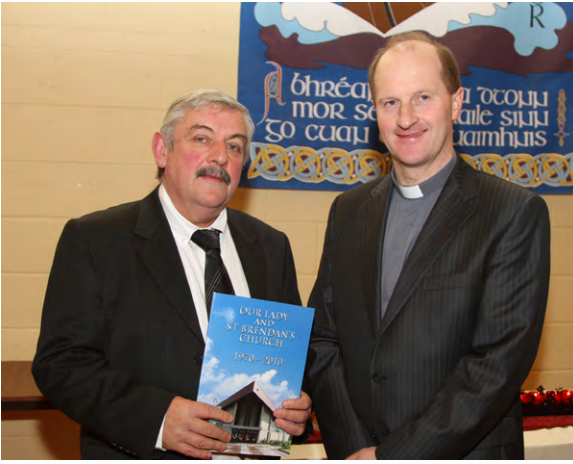


"Gael Force" from Na Gaeil GAA Club who performed at the 40th Anniversary celebrations of Our Lady and St. Brendan's Church. (L-R): Amy Stone, Katie O'Riordan, Eogháin Sheehy, Anna Hayes, Joanna Foley and Hilary White.

Bishop meets with primary schools personnel

On December 1st Bishop Bill Murphy met with the teachers, ancillary staff and Board of Management members of all primary schools in Tralee Pastoral Area (St. Brendan's, St. John's and the Spa parishes). During the meeting the Bishop complimented and thanked those present for the work they do in teaching the faith and helping to maintain a Catholic ethos in our Primary Schools. He emphasised that our primary schools are places where children get a knowledge of their Catholic faith and also where they can experience a deepening of their faith. This gathering was an opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work being done in our schools, especially in the preparation for the sacraments. It was an opportunity for the bishop to give an encouragement to all involved also.

Parish Magazine Launch



Last summer a committee was formed to consider producing a magazine as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations. This could include significant events like the early history of our Church, the foundation of our parish separate from St John's, the construction of the Pastoral Centre and the recent refurbishment of the Church. The group was busy during the summer, doing research and seeking information from people who remembered the days "up the Rock" before the Church was ever built. It was interesting to learn some new information. Some of the parish history was recorded in an earlier magazine which was produced in 1997. Naturally, any magazine can only offer a brief overview. Hopefully, the magazine gives a taste of the development of this parish, from the dedication of the Church in 1970 until the recent celebrations, forty years later. We know the magazine has brought back memories to older parishioners and will give a helpful insight to new parishioners. Many thanks to the editorial committee: Kathleen Browne, Bertie Conway, Maria McSwiney, Paddy Brosnan, Joe McMahon, Catherine Ryan, Billy Ryle and Michael Quinlan. Copies are still available (€4 each) from the Parish Office and Sacristy.

Changes to the Missal

The Vatican has formally approved a new English translation of the Roman Missal. The present Missal has been in use since 1975, which is a translation of the first Latin edition of 1970. Since then, a new Latin version was published in 2002, and later amended and reprinted in 2008. The new English translation will be a translation of the most recent Latin version. The new translation will change some of the words and phrases which have been part of our worship over many years. There will be changes to some of our prayers such as the Creed and the Gloria, as well as changes to some of the responses during the Mass. The changes will be difficult and even confusing initially, when the changes will be introduced in November this year. However it is also opportunity to reflect on how we celebrate eucharist every weekend in a prayerful and reverend way.



Mass Cards & Offerings

The Irish Bishops wish to make clear the Church's position on Mass Offerings.

1. The Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian life and is at the heart of our belief. Therefore anything that might weaken or undermine our respect for the Eucharist must be avoided.

2. The practice of giving an offering dates back to the early Church when the faithful brought bread and wine for the Mass and other gifts for the support of the priest and for the poor. Nowadays a Mass offering is a way for the donor to join him/herself to the sacrifice of the Mass; it unites the donor closely with the apostolic activity of the Church, as the offering becomes a form of material support for the Church's ministers. The Mass must never be an occasion for 'buying and selling' or 'making money', nor should there be even the slightest appearance of making a profit from Mass offerings.

3. Normally a separate Mass is celebrated for each individual offering, however small. The donor specifies the individual intention and it is up to the donor to decide what amount to give. Because donors may sometimes ask how much it is appropriate to give, a current recommended diocesan offering is specified. A priest may accept less than the recommended offering – and many priests on occasion do.

4. The priest who receives the offering has an obligation to celebrate Mass for the specific intention of the person who has made the offering. Irrespective of how many Masses he celebrates in a day, a priest may only keep an offering for one Mass per day. If a priest receives too many Mass intentions he must transfer any surplus Mass offerings, in total, to another priest; (usually sent to priests working in mission countries).

5. The Church does not encourage 'collective' or 'multi-intentional' Masses but sees these as an exception. In these exceptional cases, the following must apply:

It must be made explicitly clear to the donor beforehand that the offering is being combined into a single Mass offering and the donor must give free consent to this.

The place, date and time for this Mass should be indicated publicly and such Masses may not be celebrated any more than two days weekly in any church.

The priest who celebrates Mass for a collective intention must not keep any more than the specified diocesan offering, and must transfer any additional amount, in accordance with canon law, for the purposes prescribed by the Bishop/Provincial.

6. Having signed or stamped Mass Cards for sale to the public in shops and other commercial outlets is a practice that is not approved by the Irish Episcopal Conference, the Major Religious Superiors or the Superiors of Missionary Societies. It undermines a correct Eucharistic Theology and is unacceptable. We ask that this practice, wherever it exists, be discontinued.

7. We strongly encourage the donor, where possible, to participate in the Mass. We recommend that the intention for which the Mass is being especially offered is mentioned in the Prayer of the Faithful. Of course the Mass is not exclusively for this intention - every Mass is offered for all people, especially those in need. The Church's norms and regulations about Mass offerings are clearly set out in the 1983 Code of Canon Law and in the 1991 Decree *Mos iugiter*.



Annual Silver Circle



The annual Silver circle which took place last year during May and June, was a fantastic success. The amount raised was €41,375. The draw took place over four weeks with €5,000 in prize money. While it was a difficult time to raise money, the fundraiser for our parish was very well supported by the business community, our parishioners and people from surrounding parishes too. The proceeds helped to defray the cost of the new Church roof, and of the refurbishment to Church grounds and Parish Offices. The expenditure over the past two years was €998,316.

The Silver Circle will take place this year at the end of May for five weeks. There will be nine prizes each week and weekly prize money of €1,000. The number of prizes will be increased this year from 32 to 45; so remember - if you're not in, you can't win!! The ticket for the five weeks is €20. We appreciate the many demands on your generosity but appeal for your support once again. The monies raised in previous years have enabled us to bring our Church and Church grounds to a pristine standard. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated.



Parish Website



In every aspect of life today, the internet is at the heart of communication and the way we conduct our business. In the smallest of ways - from booking flights and hotels, to internet banking, - from google this to google that, - the internet is central to all our lives in different ways.

In recent years the Kerry diocese has transformed its website to become a source of information for people within our diocese and beyond (www.dioceseofkerry.ie). In our own parish we were anxious to transform our own parish website and to enhance it to the high standard of other parish web-

sites. Much of the work locally has been done by Fr Patsy, Michael O'Sullivan and Stephen Buttmer. Their creativity and expertise had been extremely helpful. The biggest step was to get the website 'up and running'!! As time goes by, the challenge will be to make it more relevant and helpful to all who use it. The website address is stbrendansparishtralee.org and if you have any comments, ideas or suggestions please contact us by e-mail at stbrendans@dioceseofkerry.ie

World Youth Day



World Youth Day is an international Festival which gathers young people from all over the world. Called together by an invitation from the Pope, the week includes workshops, local tours, cultural events and culminates with an all-night vigil and Papal Mass. This is an opportunity to learn, pray and celebrate the young Church. It is a pilgrimage of faith, hope and love. It will take place in Madrid from August 15th – 21st. Many young people attend festivals of sporting or cultural events, so it is great that so many people from all over the world are willing to gather for a religious festival. The festival is open to young people between 18 and 35 years. We are fortunate that

three young people from the parish will be attending; Julianne O'Leary, Megan Tarrant and Catherine Ryan. It is hoped it will be an enriching experience for them and we look forward to hearing about their journey to Madrid. Adios!!

Parish Choir success



On March 26th last, the Parish Choir took part in the Limerick Choral Festival and came 1st in the Church Music category. It was a significant achievement given that this was their first competitive outing. They were in the same category as Limerick choirs from Glenstal and the Redemptorists. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated choir and of such a high standard. They sing as the 11.15am Mass every Sunday and new members are always welcome. Congratulations to Martina Egan, the choir conductor and to the choir members. They were overjoyed with their success and we wish them continued success in the future.

Eucharistic Congress 2012

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Dublin from June 10th - 17th 2012. Preparations are already underway for this international event. Some people may remember the last Congress in Dublin in 1932. While the event promises to be very big occasion, it will be nothing like the massive gathering in Dublin in 1932. Many will travel to attend the days in Dublin. However, the real benefit of the Eucharistic Congress will be our own parishes. The Congress gives us an opportunity to reflect on our understanding of the Mass and how we celebrate it as a community every weekend. The Diocesan Liturgy Committee has been providing resources to our parishes to help us. Let us hope that these months of preparation can be enriching for all of us. For further information check the website: www.iec2012.ie

Visca visits Tralee



On February 22nd last, the Medjugorje visionary Visca visited our parish. Large crowds of people travelled from near and far to hear her speak. Many were inspired by her talk in the church that day. She spoke about the gift of faith and the simplicity of the Christian message – “Love one another”. She spoke about the foundation stones of life in relationship with God; prayer, penance and the eucharist. She also spoke about Mary, our blessed Mother. It was an experience that made a great impression on the huge congregation that was present.

Parish Office

Monday - Friday: 9 - 1pm, 2 - 5pm.

Telephone: 066 7125932

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Email: stbrendans@dioceseofkerry.ie

Web: www.stbrendansparishtralee.org

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:

There are six Holy days of obligation during the year. They are:

- January 6th, Feast of the Epiphany
- March 17th, St Patrick's Day
- August 15th, Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
- November 1st, Feast of All Saints
- December 8th, Feast of The Immaculate Conception
- December 25th, Christmas Day