

OUR LADY AND  
ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH  
TRALEE



*Parish* 2022  
NEWSLETTER

## INTRODUCTION BY FR PADRAIG WALSH PP.

The new year 2021 got off to a difficult start with the third lockdown. We all expected that the worst was over us in 2020 and that normality would resume once again. Sadly, our churches were closed for public worship for nineteen weeks until the re-opening for public Masses on Monday May 10th. During that time, funerals and weddings had very restricted numbers. Our First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies didn't take place until the end of the summer. Even though the restrictions had eased from Easter onwards, it certainly took its toll on so many people in so many different ways. As we reflect back on Covid, it is hard to believe that we had Mass on-line for 44 Sundays over the three lockdowns. Who would ever have foreseen such a scenario?

As we had expected a return to normality this year since the end of February, we have been shocked by the war in Ukraine.

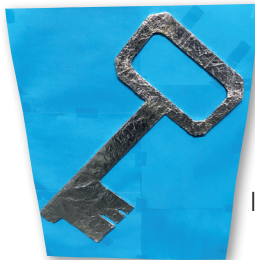
Everyday on television, we have seen many horrific scenes of killing and destruction. Cities that have been completely destroyed beyond recognition. We have seen the human toll of this war – as women and children flee from their homeland, not knowing if they will ever see their husbands, brothers and fathers again. We have seen families leaving their homes with only the belongings they can carry. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and for the people who have been driven from their homeland.

We look forward to the ceremonies of Holy Week and to have congregations once again after two years on-line. 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.

## TOGETHER AGAIN SUNDAY

Parish life has been hugely affected during the three lockdowns. When we were allowed to re-open for public worship, only limited numbers were allowed to attend Masses and the different ceremonies in the churches. It was felt at diocesan level that we would need to re-launch life in our parishes once again. With the easing of restrictions in the autumn, it was decided to designate Sunday October 31st as "Together Again Sunday". It was an opportunity to reflect on the period of covid with all its different aspects and to move ahead into a more hopeful chapter in our lives.





At the start of each of the Masses, we brought some symbols to the altar, to represent some aspects of life since the initial lockdown in March 2020.

**Large Key** brings us back to March 2020 when the whole country went into lockdown and the churches were closed. We were all living with a sense of fear and a sense of the unknown.



**Ipad** symbolizes the connection between parish Masses and people at home - when online Masses were a lifeline for so many.

**Masks and seat stickers** which became a new reality in our church, helping to keep people safe.

**A selection of tickets** which were used for our Christmas Masses in 2020. Did we ever think we'd see the day?



**Photos - of Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and weddings.**

The sacraments which are so much part of parish life and family life. Sacraments which were postponed during the lockdowns.

**A crucifix** symbolizing the losses during the previous 19 months. We remember especially the many families coping with grief, and the restrictions of 10 or 25 people at the funeral Mass.

**Paschal Candle**, symbolizing the faith that sustained us and the hope for the future.

Unfortunately, the Omicron variant became a new reality at the end of November and was a setback to the re-opening. Thankfully, there were no restrictions for Christmas. We were fortunate to be able to provide two extra vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and so many people were able to attend. Since then, the numbers attending Mass have been increasing steadily, and with the wearing of masks, it has been a safe environment for all who come to worship.

# SAINTS NAMES 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.

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| A | G | N | E | S | S | P | K | Y | Z | G | N | N | W | K | G | C | X | F | G | C | Q | V |
| Q | M | Q | D | D | G | V | C | L | A | R | E | P | H | P | R | V | U | J | U | R | Y | X |
| W | Z | P | J | N | G | B | N | C | M | K | A | T | S | A | E | V | Z | I | B | R | K | D |
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| L | B | M | V | U | N | U | A | R | J | O | T | I | R | F | O | I | R | F | Q | E | C | G |
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| C | S | S | N | L | M | V | N | V | N | Y | A | C | O | C | E | I | I | T | S | A | R | A |
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| A | M | P | L | B | N | Q | G | V | K | H | H | V | M | M | V | M | W | U | U | B | L | J |



**Anthony**  
**Brigid**  
**Blaise**  
**Patrick**  
**Matthias**  
**Brendan**  
**Agnes**  
**Gregory**  
**Augustine**  
**Monica**  
**Irenaeus**  
**Clare**  
**Bonaventure**  
**Cecelia**  
**Martha**





- Pope Francis is calling for a period of listening in preparation for a Synod (a gathering), which will take place in Rome in 2023.
- Synods have a long tradition in the Church and it has generally been Bishops who were involved in the process. However, on this occasion, Pope Francis wants all of us to participate.
- Specifically, he has asked us to listen to each other and share our experiences of Church. It is a world-wide exercise in listening to each other and to the Holy Spirit.
- As part of our involvement in the process, the Parish Pastoral Council has arranged a questionnaire in this year's Easter Newsletter. There are eight questions that ask about your experience of Church and ask for your suggestions about how we can better walk the path of faith in the future.
- We encourage you to participate in the listening process by completing your questionnaire. We hope as many people as possible will complete a questionnaire and return them to the Parish Office or the church. They will form our parish response to the Kerry Diocesan Synodal Team and to the Irish submission to the Synod.

**This insert can be removed and returned to the Parish Office.**

**Your contribution will be very much appreciated.**

1. What memories or experiences of your local Church community do you value most?

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2. How do these experiences of your local Church community make you feel included and valued?

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3. What encourages you to participate in your parish community?

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4. Can you identify, within your parish, groups or people who may not feel included or listened to?

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5. What obstacles or difficulties do you feel exist within your parish that might lead to people feeling excluded or marginalised?

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6. How do you think the Church can encourage people, especially those on the margins, to actively participate in your local parish community?

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7. In what ways do you see teamwork at work in your local Church community?

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8. What hopes or vision do you have for the Church in your parish?

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Any further thoughts or comments?

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**The questionnaire can be removed and returned to the Parish Office or to the church.**  
**Feedback can be given by email to [stbrendans@dioceseofkerry.ie](mailto:stbrendans@dioceseofkerry.ie).**  
**All responses should be returned by Palm Sunday (10th April).**

# HOLY WEEK CEREMONY TIMES

## **Monday:**

Penance Service at 7.30pm

## **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, 11.15am & 12.30pm



## PARISH ACCOUNTS 2021

Last year was another difficult year with the third lockdown and Mass was celebrated without congregations for 19 Sundays and 2 holydays (including St Patrick's Day). With the reduced numbers allowed to attend after the re-opening, it was obvious that there would be a significant shortfall in Parish income once again. The Development Fund collection held reasonably well and sincere thanks to all those who contributed so generously to the envelope collection during the year. The Offertory Collection took a severe hit for the second consecutive year, due to Masses without congregations, down €103,971 on 2019.

Given the lockdown last year until May, we were unable to have a Silver Circle and the Pastoral Centre income was reduced without groups using the facilities. Despite all the

difficulties, the surplus for 2021 is €55,424. Thankfully, we have been able to continue to provide an office back-up as well as being able to carry out any necessary maintenance.

Many of the special diocesan collections during the year did not take place except for the Sick and retired priests and a special Trocaire Appeal.

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.

***Míle buíochas.***

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2020-2021

| DEV FUND INCOME                 | 2019            | 2020            | 2021            |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                 | €               | €               | €               |
| Envelope Collection & S/O's     | 55,964          | 52,620          | 48,606          |
| Fundraising Draw                | 31,764          | 000             | 000             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>€87,728</b>  | <b>€52,620</b>  | <b>€48,606</b>  |
|                                 |                 |                 |                 |
| CURRENT ACCOUNT INCOME          | 2019            | 2020            | 2021            |
| Offertory Collections           | 158,300         | 57,999          | 54,329          |
| Shrines /Cribs                  | 24,305          | 15,986          | 23,822          |
| Pastoral Centre                 | 20,106          | 8,005           | 5,215           |
| Bookstand & Sundry              | 3,180           | 495             | 3,605           |
| Income Tax Refunds              | 21,759          | 24,418          | 29,715          |
|                                 |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>TOTAL PARISH INCOME</b>      | <b>€315,378</b> | <b>€159,523</b> | <b>€165,292</b> |
|                                 |                 |                 |                 |
| CURRENT ACCOUNT EXP.            | 2019            | 2020            | 2021            |
| Wages, PAYE & PRSI              | 46,807          | 34,019          | ***11,173       |
| Service Charges & Fees          | 1,930           | 2,259           | 1,706           |
| Insurance, Security & Webcam    | 8,806           | 8,410           | 9,210           |
| Light & Heat                    | 17,907          | 12,175          | 16,345          |
| Repairs & Maintenance           | 40,591          | 49,466          | 22,995          |
| Telephone                       | 2,983           | 2,955           | 2,965           |
| Printing/Postage/Stationery     | 6,465           | 8,480           | 4,591           |
| Altar Requisites/Shrines & Crib | 12,599          | 7,430           | 9,066           |
| Missalettes/Booklets/Magazines  | 4,519           | 2,889           | 2,136           |
| Education/Pastoral Programmes   | 7,373           | 4,820           | 165             |
| Diocesan Levy*/Health Insurance |                 |                 |                 |
| Rathmore Fund**                 | 37,217          | 35,989          | 21,536          |
| Courses/Hospitality             | 19,740          | 11,895          | 6,508           |
| Bank Charges                    | 1,975           | 1,261           | 1,272           |
| Sundries                        | 400             | 000             | 200             |
| <b>TOTAL PARISH EXPENDITURE</b> | <b>€209,312</b> | <b>€182,048</b> | <b>€109,868</b> |

## Explanatory Notes:

\* The Diocesan levy of 15% (€16,706) 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.

\*\*\* Wages €11,173 = Wages €43,419 less EWSS €32,246

# 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 2021 was €54,329.

## 2. Envelope Collection (Capital Development Fund)

This collection is the weekly envelope collection. This fund is used to finance major works to parish property such as the repair of the stained glass windows. The total contribution in 2021 was €48,606. 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.

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

**ii. Annual Cheque.**

**iii. 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.

**iv. 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.

**Trócaire**  
Working for a just world.

### Donations received in 2021:

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Lent               | €12,271 |
| Emergency Appeal   | €5,845  |
| Christmas Vouchers | €710    |
| Total              | €18,826 |

## 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 2021, the amount received from the Revenue Commissioners was €29,715.

# ONLINE DONATIONS



**DONATE**

Please visit: [www.stbrendansparishtralee.org](http://www.stbrendansparishtralee.org)  
and use the **DONATE** button and  
follow the instructions.

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. The online donations in 2020 amounted to €2465, while this increased to €7420 in 2021.

## PARISH STATISTICS:

|                       | 2020       | 2021       |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Baptisms:</b>      | <b>55</b>  | <b>89</b>  |
| <b>Confirmations:</b> | <b>137</b> | <b>123</b> |
| <b>Weddings:</b>      | <b>1</b>   | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>Funerals:</b>      | <b>75</b>  | <b>68</b>  |

## Prayer for the People of Ukraine

Loving God,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom  
to guide their choices.

We pray for the world;  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!  
Our Lady of Kyiv, pray for us!

## PARISH OFFICE



**Monday - Friday:**  
9.00am - 12.30pm.

**Telephone:** 066 7125932  
**Email:** [stbrendans@dioceseofkerry.ie](mailto:stbrendans@dioceseofkerry.ie)  
**Web:** [www.stbrendansparishtralee.org](http://www.stbrendansparishtralee.org)