

**Burrishoole Parish**

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**Fr Tod Nolan P.P. 098 42665**

**Parish Office 098 41123**

***Office hours Tue - Thu 11am-3pm,***

***To book Masses, Baptisms & Marriages, get certs & Mass cards please contact office by phone or Email: [burrishooleparish@gmail.com](mailto:burrishooleparish@gmail.com)***

***Facebook/YouTube: Burrishoole Parish***

**The Perfect Christmas Tree**

Sometimes it is the mother who comes, sometimes it is the dad, but more often than not it is the family that arrive. Choosing the perfect Christmas tree is a family affair and, living opposite the Garden Centre, I have the perfect view. After school or on the weekends are the busiest times as families pull up and begin the distinctive ritual. Although I can't hear I imagine the conversation.

They start off together as dad draws the family's attention to a tree which has caught his eye. All stand back and appraise the chosen tree for its height and its girth. 'It's too wide', 'it's too short', 'it's too bare', 'it's too unshapen'. The family move on as one to the next tree and the process is repeated over and over until gradually, and unnoticed by themselves, they split up and each begins a separate search.

It is only now that the ritual becomes problematic as each begins to lobby for their chosen tree. 'If we took the bottom off this one?', 'if we cut the long branches of this one?', what if we moved the Christmas tree this year to the kitchen?', 'what if we get the two of them and put the small one in the hall?!'

Somehow, eventually, as if by magic, one tree is chosen. The chosen one is brought out to the centre as all stand back for one final look. Smiles form and heads begin to nod – isn't it just perfect. With the tree wrapped and safely ensconced in the boot of the car the family heads off ready for the next big job of putting the tree up and beginning the next big family ritual of decorating the tree.

We never had a real Christmas tree at home when I was growing up! For the first ten years of my life we lived over the shop where and space was at a premium. Televisions sets in those days were big clunky things, so each year my mother would place a 30 inch high silver, tinsel tree on top of our telly. Knowing nothing else we thought it was magical and looked forward to the 'official' switching on of the lights each year as if we were lighting the giant tree on O Connell Street. In later years after we had moved up the street we went 'posh' and had a five-

foot high green artificial tree which stood in the same corner for over forty years.

Over the years our tree developed a slight leaning tower of Pisa tilt and time took its toll on its wonky branches, but we still brought magic to the house. In more recent years it was my job to put it up but despite my best efforts at decorating my sisters would always insist on redoing it when they came home.

With our parents gone putting up the tree became a sadder and lonelier task because despite its limitations that tree was a link with the past and with many lovely memories. Memories of presents piled high under wonky branches, memories of gathering around it on Christmas mornings to open what Santy had brought, memories of the 'prize-giving' before dinner as we presented each other with our Christmas presents and memories of lone boxes of biscuits still lingering under its lights into early January.

The tree is gone now but the memories remain. In the end every tree is perfect, because in the end it's not about the tree but rather it's all about the memories made by the family gathered around it.

God Bless, Fr Tod

**Baby Jesus Sunday**

This weekend, Gaudete Sunday, is the weekend when families are invited to bring their Baby Jesus to Mass for a blessing. Small or big, heavy or light, with crib or without, all Baby Jesus are welcome.

**Goodnews Club**

Welcome to the boys and girls of the Goodnews club. They will meet again on Sunday Jan 8<sup>th</sup>. Hope Santy comes!

**Decorating of Churches**

Thanks to all involved in decorating our parish churches. A special thank you to the elves who had Tiernaur Church beautifully decorated when we arrived.

**Parish Magazine '22**

The Parish Magazine is out now! Available in all local shops and outlets. A great Christmas present.

**Parish Bank Accounts**

Following the closure of the Ulster Bank both Parish Accounts are now held with the AIB: *If you donate by direct debit to the Church Account please inform your bank of the change.*

The Church Account for weekly collection and day to day running of parish; Burrishoole Parish A/C IE23AIBK93716943416098.

### Christmas Confessions

Christmas Penitential Services will be held on Monday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> in Mulranny at 7pm and in Newport at 8pm. A number of priests will be in attendance.

### Christmas Mass Schedule

<u>Christmas Eve:</u>	Tiernaur at	7pm.
	Newport at	9pm
<u>Christmas Day:</u>	Shramore at	8.30am
	Newport at	10am
	Mulranny at	11.30am

### St Vincent de Paul

The local St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank most sincerely all who contributed so generously to this year's church gate collection. €1998 was collected on the day with further donations of €880 given subsequently.

### Hospice and Shine a Light Cards

Hospice Christmas Card are available at Newport Post Office and Shine a Light cards are available from Newport Pharmacy. All funds raised go to the Mayo Roscommon Hospice.

### Mulranny Christmas Lights

Mulranny Christmas Lights will be switched on at 6pm this Sunday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. The Village lights are being sponsored by Mulranny Tidy towns and they have been assured a VIP will attend to meet the children at the event.

### Mulranny Christmas Market

This Sunday 11am to 3pm in The Amenity Centre, Mulranny with a great selection of stalls. All welcome

### Mayo Cancer Support outreach clinic

The next date for Mayo Cancer Support's Achill Outreach Service is Thursday, December 15. They provide free emotional support to people affected by cancer. This service is by appointment only at Achill Primary Healthcare Centre. For more information or to book an appointment call 094 903 8407 or 087 280 4164.

### Ciorcal Comhrá

Ciorcal Comhrá is a social gathering of people wishing to reconnect with Gaeilge. They meet on the first and third Saturday each month at 2pm in the Old Convent, Mulranny F28 N2Y5. Their next meeting is on Saturday, December 17. Fáilte roimh chách, labhair Gaeilge linn.

### Archbishops Invitation

Archbishop Francis concluded his recent Pastoral Letter with a word of invitation for those who may not have returned to Mass since Covid or who may stay away for any reason. All are always welcome.

### Remembering our Dead

We pray for the souls of Patrick Curley, USA and Rosyvera and Geoffrey Bourke, Westport, father of Conor Bourke, The Quay. May they rest in peace

### Weekday Masses 10am

*Mon-Tiernaur, Tues/Thurs-Newport, Fri-Mulranny*  
The People of the Pariah

### Weekend Masses

**Saturday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Tiernaur at 7pm.**

Deceased members of Burrishoole GAA

**Sunday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Newport at 10am:**

Annie Horan, Doogary. Peadar and Anne Kilroy and deceased members of the Kilroy and Cox families. Mary and Patrick Hynes, Lecanvey. Martin and Annie Walsh, Derryloghan and son in law Tommy Cawley. Catherine Keane, Lecarrow, her brother Gerry Costello, Castlebar and parents Mick and Kathleen Costello, Belcarra

**Sunday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am:**

Felix Murray, Mulranny and Ballycroy. Thomas and Mary Ginnelly, Rosturk. Mary Doyle (nee Loftus) England and Mulranny

**Saturday Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Tiernaur at 7pm:**

Jim and Tom O Boyle, Knockbreaga. Ciss O Boyle and deceased family members. Martin and Delia Hanley, Mulranny and deceased family members. Annie Mc Nea and deceased family members.

**Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Newport at 10am:**

Noreen Folan, US and Graffy (Months Mind). Vera O Brien, Ballintubber, her daughter Martina O Brien and deceased members of the O Brien and Egan families. Martin Sweeney, Newport and Harrow and his parents Mickie and Birdie. Deceased members of the Meenahan and Moran families, Derrada. Philomena Moran, Fauleens and her parents Jack and Katie O Haire.

**Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am:**

Martin Carey, Mulranny, (1<sup>st</sup> Ann). Paddy and Mary Callaghan, Toren. Martin McGee, Tonragee. Annie Nixon, Mulranny. Family and friends of May Kilkenny and staff and residents of St Brendans.