

Burrishoole Parish
November 27th/28th 2021
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
Facebook/YouTube: Burrishoole Parish**

A Meaningful Christmas?

Anxiety levels are growing higher as we watch country after country across Europe reintroducing various degrees of lockdown. With our Covid numbers continuing to rise it would seem almost inevitable that Ireland may follow. The spectre of a Covid restricted Christmas looms heavily over our preparation.

With the prospect of a possible Lockdown commentators in the Media are wondering whether Christmas will happen at all this year, others speculate on how we can possibly have a 'meaningful Christmas' should new restrictions be imposed.

This weekend marks the First Sunday of Advent. Today, as a faith community, we begin our preparation for Christmas. With just four weeks to go it's hard to tell how Christmas will look in terms of a community faith celebration. If we are permitted to gather for Christmas Masses, how can we ensure that we will do so safely? Will we be able to enjoy the singing of our choirs? How will we share the wonder and beauty of the Christmas story with our children?

Despite the uncertainty as to how we will celebrate Christmas, Christmas will be celebrated, and Christmas will be meaningful.

In celebrating Christmas we are celebrating more than just an event in time, we are celebrating our belief that God is with us. We are celebrating that God in taking on human form became one of us so that we might be at one with God. We are celebrating that in Jesus God has shown us the Way to becoming that which we are called to be.

For us who believe Christmas is first and foremost a celebration of the greatest truth of our faith; that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.'

The first Christmas took place in a world which wasn't ready or prepared. When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem they found a town in lockdown. Shops were shuttered, hotel doors firmly closed. Separated from family and friends Mary and Joseph find themselves isolated and

alone. Despite centuries of waiting the world was not ready to greet their newborn child. The first visitors to their make-shift stable home brought nothing with them except their joy and welcome. And yet it is into this locked down world that God chooses to be born.

Christmas is a very special time for families, it is a beautiful time for children – (Santy will come), it is a time of plenty and a time of presents. All of those things are important, they all contribute to making Christmas the most special time of the year but they don't give meaning to Christmas. For Christians Christmas can only have meaning as a celebration of our faith.

As Lockdowns spread across Europe, Bavaria in southern Germany is preparing for Christmas without its famous Christmas Markets. Even though the huge semi-permanent wooden structures have already been erected it has been decided that, for the second year in a row, it is too unsafe to open the markets.

A friend of mine in Munich sent me a picture of the closed markets in the main square. The cabin-like markets stand ready - the lights are all on, but the windows and doors remain firmly closed and locked. Two large statues are visible above the main doors - Mary and Joseph making their way towards Bethlehem. As if looking for someplace to go, they are unable to find their way into the shops. This year Jesus must be born elsewhere!

Christmas will happen. For it to be meaningful does not depend on what you buy or what you might get. Christmas will only be meaning when we allow its true meaning to be born in our hearts.

God Bless, Fr Tod

First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday. Visits to the sick and housebound will take place in the Mulranny, Tiernaur and Shramore areas in Thursday with visits in the Newport Area taking place on Friday.

Returning to Mass

With the lifting of restrictions Churches no longer are required to limit their capacity. We are however asked to maintain all other protective practices:

- The wearing of facemasks
- Sanitising of hands
- Respecting social distance.

The ribbons have been removed. You are asked however to be aware of the need to give ample space between you and the person next to you and if possible, avoid sitting directly behind someone. Weekday Masses continue in each church.

November Graveyard Rosaries

Weather permitting, it is hoped to recite a public Rosary at Murrivagh and Killeen cemeteries this Sunday 28th 12.30pm Murrivagh
1pm Killeen

First Communion/ Confirmation

It is hoped that our Parish Sacramental preparation programmes might begin after Christmas. Subject to the now all-too-familiar Covid caveats it is provisionally proposed to hold First Communion in Mulranny on the weekend of April 2nd/3rd and in Newport on the weekend of May 14th/15th. The provisional date for our Parish Confirmation on Saturday March 12th.

St Vincent de Paul Church Gate Collection

The local St Vincent De Paul conference wish to extend their gratitude to the people of the parish for their generous support totalling €1841.30 during their recent annual collection. All monies raised will be used in the parish. Donations can be forwarded using the following account: BIC: AIBKIE2D IBAN: IE56AIBK93708835168044. The local helpline number 086 418 1000.

Mulranny Active Retirement Dinner

Mulranny Active Retirement are holding a social evening with dinner in Nevins, Tiernaur which is open to all in the parish. The meal will commence at 6pm on Friday, December 3. If you would like to attend, please book your place by contacting Mary at 086 168 3894

Mulranny Church Choir

Unfortunately due to the continuing rise in covid cases and to ensure the safety of choir members and congregation, Mulranny Church Choir will take a short break and hopefully resume for the Christmas season. Upcoming Christmas choir practice has also been cancelled and we will keep you all informed when it is safe to meet up again. Thank you as always for your commitment and dedication and stay safe.

Community Choir

The Community Choir continues to rehearse on Tuesday evenings in Tiernaur Church. For more information contact Joanne at 087 6755543

Counselling

North West STOP offers a free counselling service with no waiting lists. Please phone or text 086 777 2009 to arrange.

Mulranny ICA

Mulranny ICA will have their Christmas get together in the Mulranny Amenity Centre at 8 pm on Tuesday 14th December. Please note that membership for 2022 is now due and is payable at this meeting. Looking forward to see all our members.

Mass Schedule

10am Weekday Mass Intentions:

Mon-Tiernaur, Tues/Thurs-Newport, Fri-Mulranny
Myles Higginbotham, Galway and Newport (Thurs). Hisashi Koide, Japan.

Weekend Masses

Saturday November 27th Tiernaur at 7pm:

Johnny and Mary Bridget McNulty, Cahereenbrack and deceased family members. Paddy and Mary Hanley, Knockbreaga

Sunday November 28th Newport at 10am:

Michael and Mary Keane and deceased members of the Philbin and Keane families. Kate and John Murray, Skirdagh and deceased family members. Hilda and Francis Chambers, Fauleens. Sean Mulchrone, Mulranny Road. Teresa and Michael Nevin, Mullaun and their daughter Angela Irwin.

Sunday November 28th Mulranny at 11.30am:

Michael Masterson and his parents Brian and Sabrina, Achill. John & Rose Loftus, Bunnahowna and their grandson David, Rose Kelly (née Loftus), her husband Dave Kelly and daughter Siobhain Furlong; Padraic Loftus, Mary Ginley (née Loftus) and the deceased members of the Loftus family.

Friday December 3rd Shramore at 7pm

The People of the Parish

Saturday December 4th Tiernaur at 7pm:

Hughie Cannon, Roskeen

Sunday December 5th Newport at 10am:

Martin Sweeney, Harrow and Newport and his parents Birdie and Micky. John and Bridget McGuire and their son Martin, his wife Breege and the deceased members of the McGuire and Harte families.

Sunday December 5th Mulranny at 11.30am:

Tom and Ellen Mulgrew and deceased members of the Mulgrew and McNeela families