

**Burrishoole Parish**

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Fr Tod Nolan P.P.**

**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***

**The Christmas Crib**

At last weekend's First Holy Communion Masses I chatted with the children about the Christmas story. The story of the birth of Jesus is a lovely story for children which touches their innocence and awakens their imagination. It has everything; from a wicked king to a precious baby, from a sad beginning to a happy ending. At the centre of the Christmas story is the Crib with its friendly donkey and cow, its cosy manger and the adoring figures of Joseph and Mary. The Crib provides the perfect teaching aid to engage with children (and indeed the child within each of us) around the story of the birth of Jesus.

That was the intention of St Francis of Assisi who 800 years ago this year had the first crib made. St Francis wanted to make real what had happened on the first Christmas night. At a time when very few were able to read he wanted to represent the birth of Jesus in a way that everyone could appreciate and take in with a glance.

Two weeks before Christmas 1223 Francis, while traveling through the village of Greccio in the Italian region of Reiti called on a carpenter known to us only as John and asked him to help build his crib. When Francis saw John's crib with the figures, the straw and the ox and the donkey he was filled with joy; "In that moving scene shines forth the simplicity of the Gospel", he said 'poverty is praised and humility presented to us in a positive way. Greccio has become like a new Bethlehem,'. Now, 800 years later the tradition of the Christmas Crib continues to be passed on though families and communities across the world, bringing with it a message of hope and peace which is needed as much today as it was on the first Christmas night. What an awful and terrible irony it is that Bethlehem today is at the centre of the violence and terror which is raging in the West Bank. The Holy Land, the very place where Jesus was born, the roads on which he walked, the landscape which formed the backdrop to his life and his preaching is today torn apart by hatred and war. For Jesus there was 'no room at the inn'; for the people of Gaza

there are no inns, and there is no safe room in their homes, in their hospitals, in their schools or in their mosques and churches. 2000+ years after the Holy Family fled the violence of Herod thousands upon hundreds of thousands of families are fleeing the savage violence of a government seemingly consumed by a thirst for vengeance.

This year as we gaze at the Crib and remember that first 'cosy' Christmas, we might remember those families of the Holy Land for whom there is no shelter this year. If Christ were to be born today it would be under rubble. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, might be born in the hearts of all people of violence and hatred.

God Bless, Fr Tod

**Christmas Blessings**

Wishing all parishioners a very happy and blessed Christmas. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Please join us for Christmas Mass. Everyone is welcome, especially you!

**Christmas Eve:**      Tiernaur            at 7pm  
                                 Newport            at 9pm.

**Christmas Day:**      Shramore            at 8.30am  
                                 Newport            at 10am  
                                 Mulranny            at 11.30am

**At Home in Our Hearts**

As a community we welcome all who are at home for Christmas. Your presence is deeply appreciated. Over the Christmas period we remember in prayer those unable to get home this Christmas. As a link with those who will be away from home this Christmas parishioners are invited to place their names in the 'At Home in our Hearts' boxes which are in each of our churches.

**Collection for Calais Refugees**

Although our attention is inevitably drawn towards the Holy Land and the Ukraine thousands of displaced people continue to live in horrific conditions in camps along the west coast of France. Our parishioner Jennifer Morice will return to Calais in the New Year to volunteer as a camp worker. Jennifer is seeking to bring donations of good quality warm clothing with her and will collect at Newport playground on Thurs Dec 28<sup>th</sup> from 3.30-5pm. Alternatively you can donate via Revolut to 0894427875.

### Newport Bingo

Newport Bingo will resume on Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> in Hotel Newport. All welcome

### Tiernaut Hall Annual 25 Card Drive

Tiernaut Hall Committee will host a 25 card drive on Friday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm in the Hall. There will be prizes to be won and refreshments will be served. All regular and new players are welcome to come along for a great night's entertainment.

### GAA Annual 5k Fun Run/Walk

Burrishoole GAA's Annual 5k Fun Run/Walk will take place on St. Stephens morning starting at 11am with registration from 10.30am at the GAA Club House. Everyone is welcome so come join in, get some fresh air, and walk off the Christmas treats. All welcome.

### NADDCo 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal

NADDCo Celebrates 30 years in April 2024. Founded on April 21st 1994 by a group of like-minded Newport natives, NADDCo has been an integral cog in the wheel that has seen huge growth in our town. To celebrate this momentous occasion NADDCo will host a 30 year Anniversary Recognition Evening and review the history of the group, its achievements and its future plans. In order to collate an evening inclusive of all those involved both past and present they ask the public to submit any images they have associated with NADDCO over the last 30 years. Contact the tourist office on Georges Street or email images to [tourism@newportmayo.ie](mailto:tourism@newportmayo.ie)

### Newport Junior set Dancers

A word of thanks to Newport Junior set dancers who once again generously contributed all monies raised from their last class towards the cost of our Christmas Church flowers.

### Cuan Modh 25 Card Games

The 25 card game will resume on Friday Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the GAA Club House.

### Mayo College of Further Education

Upskill yourself with free certified online courses in Mayo College of Further Education and Training in 2024. We have free courses in conjunction with Mayo GAA in Mentorship, Sustainability in the Workplace, Project Management and Leading Through Change commencing in January. Apply Online at [mayocollege.ie](http://mayocollege.ie) to improve your CV and employment options.

### Priests Christmas collection.

The Priests Christmas Collection (Blue envelope) will be taken up over the coming weeks. This is one of the four annual collections from which is taken the priest's monthly stipend. Thank you for your continued generous support of your priest.  
Account Name: Newport Church Revenue  
IBAN: IE18 AIBK 9371 6927 540004

### Lourdes Pilgrimage

Tuam Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes; led by the Archbishop; August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> 2024; 6 nights; ex Ireland-West, Knock. Contact details: 012410800.

### Weekday Masses

*No weekday Masses this week*

### Weekend Masses

#### Saturday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> Tiernaut at 7pm

Ciss O Boyle and deceased members of the O Boyle family. Frank and Annie Mc Nea and deceased family members.

#### Christmas Eve Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

*Note: No Morning Masses*

7pm Tiernaut  
9pm Newport

#### Christmas Day Monday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>

8.30am Shramore  
10am Newport  
11.30am Mulranny

#### Saturday Dec 30<sup>th</sup> Tiernaut at 7pm

Donna MacRury, Tiernaut and Scotland (1<sup>st</sup> Ann). Nora Chambers, Derrycoultrim (1<sup>st</sup> Ann). Paul Killen, Newfield (1<sup>st</sup> Ann). Brendan and Bridie McLoughlin Knockbreaga. Deceased members of the Sweeney family, Sandhill.

#### Sunday Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Newport at 10am

Nancy Noone, Seaview Pk, (1<sup>st</sup> Ann). Maureen Sammon, Carramore (1<sup>st</sup> Ann), Mary Ellen Sammon (nee Spellman) Lecarrow and deceased members of the Sammon and Kilcoyne families.. John F Chambers, Kiltaernet. Patrick Keane, his wife Julia and their daughter Mary Catherine, Derryloghan.

#### Sunday Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am

Tom and Ellen Mulgrew, Mulranny and the deceased members of the Mulgrew and McNeela families. James and Mary McIntyre, Murrivagh.