

**Burrishoole Parish**  
**23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
**Fr Tod Nolan P.P. 098 42665**  
**Parish Office 098 41123**

**Office attended 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: Burrishoole Parish**

### **How Are You?**

I am not sure, but it is possibly an Irish thing to answer a question with another question; 'Who was there?'... 'Why are you asking?', 'What time is it?'... 'What time are you supposed to be there?' Whether answering a question with a question is a particularly Irish thing or not is uncertain, but I think not answering a question about how we are may well be a very Irish thing.

Up until recently when people asked me how I was I would always answer by saying that I was fine regardless of whether I was fine or not. My answer was based on the assumption that the person asking was merely making small talk or simply being polite. Although they may have my interests at heart, they really weren't expecting a detailed answer to their question.

Since Covid however, and particularly during this lockdown I have noticed that people, me included, have become a little more honest when answering the question 'How are you?'. I am less likely to answer with a perfunctory 'fine' or 'flying it' or worse again with a question...

These days I hear myself and others saying things like 'It's tough but I am doing my best' or 'Coping as well as I can' or 'Trying to keep the best foot forward'. Somehow through Covid 19 and the experience of Lockdown a certain level of honesty has crept back into our small talk as we have learned that it is ok not to be ok! We are all in the same boat.

Covid 19 has affected all of us to various degrees. Not a day goes by that I don't get a call from, or stand at the door of a house of, a person who is truly struggling with the isolation and separation wrought by this unseen virus. Simple things like being unable to go to the shop or the hairdresser, enjoying the occasional visit from a friend or family member, not being able to go for a pint, losing the routine of normal everyday life, have left people anxious and frightened and lonely. The physical toll such a loss takes on people is significant; not being able to sleep, loss of appetite, lack of motivation, anxiety and fear.

Surviving Covid 19 is much more than about avoiding the virus or indeed overcoming it should we be unfortunate enough to contract it. Surviving Covid 19 is about safely navigating this new a different world which Covid has created – a world of isolation and separation. The irony of it all is of course that we will and can only survive together. Church is not just a building or what we might do on a Sunday. We are Church, and we live Church in how we love and care for each other. We are most truly Church when we are attentive to the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

We need each other. As Church we are called to be especially attentive to each other now. A phone call, a chat across a ditch, a friendly wave, a loaf of bread or a hot dinner can mean so much to someone who is struggling. Simply asking the question 'how are you?' and waiting for a reply is as much as people want or need.

I began writing this piece on Tuesday. It was a dark, wet and dreary day. And yet outside my window I noticed two beautiful daffodils emerging from the earth and I knew that the residents and staff in St Brendan's were receiving their first vaccine dose on that day. I finished this piece on Wednesday morning – the most beautiful of mornings. Spring is coming; new life, new hope is all around. How are you?

God Bless, Fr Tod

### **Words of the Wise**

I think that when the dust settles,

We will realise,

How little we need,

How much we actually have

And

The true worth and great gift we are to each other.

### **Level 5**

In Level 5 it is particularly important that we keep an eye out for the vulnerable and the elderly. If you have an elderly neighbour living alone please try to make sure that they are ok. Often its just the wave, the quiet word or the phone call which makes the difference.

We have a Parish Volunteer Group set up which is available to assist those who are living alone or in self-isolation with collecting messages, prescriptions etc. If you need anything, please call Fr Tod on 098 41123 or Guard Ronan O Grady on 086 8333535. We are here to help.

During Level 5 all Baptisms have been suspended. Under the new restrictions only 10 people are permitted to attend a funeral and from January 2<sup>nd</sup> only 6 people can attend a wedding.

### **Friday Children's Mass**

For the period of Lockdown and while the schools are closed 10am Mass on Friday will be our weekly Children's Mass. Families and home schoolers are invited to join us via Facebook for a more child friendly experience of Mass.

### **First Communion**

Next Friday's Children's Mass will be a First Holy Communion Mass.

On the last weekend of each month one online Mass will have a particular emphasis on First Holy Communion. Each month a different Newsletter will provide the focus for our Mass.

A pack of 7 Newsletters for each child will be available in both Newport and Mulranny Churches from this Sunday. The Newsletters which support the work which is being done in school are designed as a resource for both the child and their parent and parents are encouraged to engage in their child's preparation for First Holy Communion through use of the Newsletter.

We will use Newsletter 1 *Welcome* during next Friday's Mass.

Parents/Guardians are invited to pick up their child's pack from the Church during the week.

### **Envelope Collection**

Thank you for your ongoing support of your parish. In these very difficult times, your generosity is deeply appreciated. Although public Masses are again suspended envelopes can still be dropped in the letterbox of the Parish house in Newport or in the box at the rear of the church in Mulranny.

### **Priests Christmas Collection**

The Priest's Christmas Collection (Blue Envelope) is now being accepted. If you would like to donate by cheque, please make your cheque payable to Newport Church Revenue Account. Alternatively, it might suit to donate directly to the Parish bank account; IBAN: IE18 AIBK 9371 6927 5400 04.

Again many thanks for your continued generosity which is truly humbling.

### **Free Online Living Well Programme**

IF you are living with a long-term health condition you may be interested in doing the 'Living Well' programme a free six-week workshop delivered online in sessions of two and a half hours. The 2021 programme commences on Mon, Jan 18, with more dates available on Thurs, Feb 18, Mon, Feb 22 and Tues, Feb 23. You must register if you wish to take part as places are limited to ten to twelve

participants. To register contact Liam Gildea at 087 349 0393 or email [liam.gildea@mayocil.ie](mailto:liam.gildea@mayocil.ie)

### **Home Sharers required.**

Would you be interested in sharing your home and supporting a person with additional needs, for a few hours per day, a couple days per month, or long term. We are looking for single people, couples, married people and/or families to provide short or long term respite for children or adults. If you are interested please contact Western Care Association, Social Work Dept. on 094 9025133

### **Remembering Our Dead**

We pray for the souls of Michael Cafferkey, Trienbeg and Portmarnock and Fr Michael Kenny, Aughamore and formerly of Mulranny. We extend sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased. May their souls rest in peace.

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Eucharistic Adoration is currently suspended. Our churches remain open and you are invited to drop in at any time.

### **Mass Schedule**

*Mass available only on Facebook and/or Parish Radio during current restrictions*

### **Weekday 10am Mass Intentions:**

**Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri:** Tommy and Mary Keane and deceased members of the Keane and King families

### **Weekend Mass Intentions**

### **Saturday January 23rd at 7pm:**

Mary O Malley Lyons

### **Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am:**

Nancy and Colm Gallagher, Shramore, Bridget (Baby) O Malley, Shramore, Frank and Annie Grealis, Cushlecka, Phoebe Masterson, Murrivagh

### **Saturday January 30th at 7pm:**

Wyn Loftus and her husband John, Bunahowna

### **Sunday January 31st at 10am:**

Tommy O Malley, Islandeady