

**Burrishoole Parish**  
**9<sup>th</sup>/10<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  
Facebook: Burrishoole Parish***

### **With God on Our Side**

I was never one for big New Year celebrations. For the past number of years I have marked the New Year at home by myself, very happy in my own company. Covid 19 didn't intrude on my ringing in of 2021!

Although gathering to ring in the New Year is a lovely tradition, it's a little bit arbitrary for my liking. We celebrate, we sing, we kiss and we hug and more often than not the next day we move on with our lives with nothing changed - with the possible exception that we won't drink as much next New Year's Eve! As important as it is to mark the occasion and to celebrate with family and friends the start of a new year it is perhaps more important to reflect on the year past and how what we have experienced and learnt might shape us in the year to come.

It goes without saying that 2020 was a year which will not be forgotten for a long time. The arrival of the Coronavirus in early March cast a shadow over every aspect of our lives. Who would have thought that almost one year later we would still be battling against this hideous unseen enemy, that the wearing of masks and social distancing would become second nature to us and that businesses, and now schools, would still be closed?

For us as a Parish the challenges and changes have been equally as dramatic. Last March it would have been unimaginable to think that nine months later we would still not be able to gather for Mass. Our Sunday Mass lies at the very centre of who we are as parish; it gives us our identity, it nourishes and sustains our faith, it forms us into a community of faith. We are never more 'parish' than when we gather for Mass. Unable to gather we have gradually become used to the radio or internet Mass.

As we look back on 2020, I think that it is fair to say that we as a parish have adapted well. While Mass on Facebook and radio is not ideal it does provide a focus and an occasion for prayer together. Making the Newsletters available through the shops has also helped to reinforce our sense of

identity and community. Although severely curtailed by very limited numbers we managed to celebrate First Communion in June and both Easter and Christmas were fittingly marked and celebrated. And even though we couldn't gather the generous ongoing support of parishioner for their parish was, and is, extraordinary.

Looking forward, it is very hard to judge the long term effects that not being able to physically gather for Mass will have on our parish community. Undoubtedly some parishioners will not return to regular Mass attendance, whole families will simply have fallen out of the habit. How will the long absence effect our great tradition of volunteering for the various church ministries, will we ever again enjoy our wonderful Mass servers or Good News Club? What kind of church will emerge from under the shadow of Coronavirus? A smaller Church? A younger Church? A more committed Church?

As we enter 2021 we are entering into new and uncharted territory for us as a parish. We have no need to be fearful. Rather we look to the future with hearts full of hope. Our hope is not based on our ability or on our strength or on what we might achieve. Our hope is always in Jesus, Emmanuelle, God With Us. With God on our side everything is possible.

With God on our side we have plenty to celebrate. Happy New Year!

God Bless, Fr Tod

### **Parish Volunteer Group**

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.

### **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.

Under Level 5 all Masses are once again celebrated without a congregation. We will revert to what has become our default; Mass on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri at 10am with Mass on Saturday at 7pm and Mass on Sunday at 10am. Any Intentions received for the 11.30am Sunday Mass will be included in the 10am.

### **Restricted Numbers**

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.

### **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.

### **Parish Office Opening Times**

In keeping with Level 5 restrictions the parish office is closed to the public at present. The office will be attended Tuesdays to Thursdays from 11am to 3pm. You are requested to phone or email Mass Intentions, Certificate requests or Mass Card / Bouquet requests.

### **Burrishoole Parish Magazine on Sale**

Burrishoole Parish Magazine is now on sale. It includes numerous interesting accounts of the many goings-on in the parish during 2020.

There is something for everyone in the 80 pages and the magazine makes for interesting reading for parishioners at home and abroad. Available in local shops now.

### **Mayo Farmers Month – A Healthier You for 2021**

Croí, the Heart & Stroke Charity invite the farming community in Mayo to get involved and make heart healthy changes this Mayo Farmers Month, launching December 29.

Looking after your overall health and wellbeing is important for everyone, but especially for farmers as they are at increased risk of heart disease and stroke. To mark Mayo Farmers Month, Croí invites you to attend a free virtual webinar on Thursday, January 21 at 7pm to learn more about heart health, stress management and overall health and wellbeing with a panel of local nursing and allied

health professional experts. Check out the Croí website at [www.croi.ie/farmers](http://www.croi.ie/farmers) for lots of free resources and to register for the free webinar. Or call Croí on 091-544 310 to reserve your space.

### **Remembering Our Dead**

We pray for the souls of Bridget and Mark Dowd, England and originally of Currane, sister and nephew of Mairead Patten Cuan Modh. 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:**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup>:** People of the Parish

### **Weekend Mass Intentions**

#### **Saturday January 9th at 7pm:**

Annie Chambers, Knockloughra & deceased members of the McCormack & Chambers families; Annie Kate McManamon, Tiernaur.

#### **Sunday January 10th at 10am:**

John & Nuala Cowley (née McCombs), Letterlough; Patricia McHale, Mulranny Road. Fr John Horan SMA, Mulranny; Michael & Molly O'Boyle, Mulranny.

#### **Saturday January 16th at 7pm:**

Francie Chambers, Roskeen and his grandnephew PJ Chambers, Cleveland and deceased members of the chambers family, Roskeen

#### **Sunday January 3rd at 10am:**

Frank Mc Greevy, Kilbride, Michael Mc Greevy, Glenhest and deceased members of the McGreevy family. Elizabeth O Malley, Shramore, Tom and Tilly McGlynn and their daughter Mary Kate Hannah, Cleggan Mountain