

**Burrishoole Parish**

**2nd/3rd 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***

**A Christmas Like no Other**

It was hard to know how things would turn out. Since late November anxiety levels had reached new heights as we tried to envisage what a parish Christmas might look like in the era of Covid 19. Some parishes had put on extra Masses, other parishes had gone for 'live streamed' Masses only. Our hope had been that by emphasising the Christmas Eve family Mass most people might 'attend' Christmas Mass virtually so that the other Masses would not be overcrowded. The health and safety of parishioners was paramount. Our plan worked!

The Christmas Eve Family Mass had over 2000 views – even Santy was looking in! Families appreciated the opportunity to gather and to pray together around their kitchen tables and the Christmas pack helped to give a sense of community and togetherness. Although the parish church was empty apart from the reader and musicians, we were very aware that we were part of something much bigger and that our prayer, our music, our voices were uniting families and communities across the parish and beyond. The soulful playing of Silent Night on harp and violin together with the powerful singing of Oh Holy Night added to a deeply prayerful and moving occasion. Christmas Eve Mass was a unique and special experience, it was a new experience of what it means to be church, an experience which underlined for us that church isn't just where we go on a Sunday but rather who we are.

Even though we were hoping that congregations would be small it was lovely to be able to celebrate Christmas Mass in each of our churches. It was particularly gratifying in Tiernaur to have beautiful music played by a group of talented teenagers. Although the congregation was small the wonderful musicians personified our hope for the future. They represented a community which couldn't gather and played for those whose faith had built and sustained that church for over 200 years.

Masses on Christmas Day in Shramore, Newport and Mulranny were an equally lovely and faith enriching experience. Shramore was decked out beautifully and a sound system, installed for the day allowed people to participate at Mass from their cars. Christmas morning Mass in Newport was superbly enhanced by the voices of two exceptionally gifted young singers and our Mass in Mulranny benefitted hugely from the gifts and talents of our ever faithful and committed musicians.

Thank you to all involved; readers, singers, decorators, cleaners, ushers. Christmas was different but because of the gifts, talents and generosity of so many people Christmas 2020 was no less beautiful or indeed meaningful.

Over the past nine months much has changed in our lives and in our world. In that time we have had to adapt in ways we scarcely thought imaginable. Every aspect of our lives has been affected. Although how our faith is expressed and celebrated has changed and continues to change, the faith itself remains the same. Our faith is in a God who chose to come among us in the form of a defenceless child so that we might come to understand who God is and how much God loves us.

Happy New Year  
and God Bless, Fr Tod

**Feast of the Epiphany**

Next Wednesday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of the Epiphany. Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year Mass will be celebrated at 10am on Wednesday and will be available on Parish Radio or through Facebook

**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.

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.

### 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.

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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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. With special reports on the highlight of Jim McManamon's centenary birthday celebration, Mary Caffrey's 99th birthday, and Mary Friel's 80th. Peter Mallowney reports the news of the parish from 50 years ago while Kathy Ryder records the building of a bridge into Shrahoric and

Julie Langan writes of CCE's plans for the 40th anniversary of Cuilmore Comhaltas in 2021. Football exploits are recorded by Burrishoole GAA and Newport/Mulranny Wanderers while Gerry Cowley and Andy McGreal report on providing new infrastructure in Newport and Mulranny.

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

### 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 4 - Friday 7:** People of the Parish

### Weekend Mass Intentions

#### Saturday January 2nd at 7pm:

Catherine & Florence O'Sullivan.

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

Tommy Lavelle, Furnace; John Murray, Shramore; Aggie & Johnny Connolly, Michael Hearn & deceased members of the McLoughlin & Connolly families.

Michael Moran (Post), Mulranny & Birmingham; Alice, John & JJ. Fitzpatrick, Mulranny; Veronica & Thomas Corrigan, Dooghill & their daughter Mary.

#### Epiphany Wednesday Jan 6th at 10am:

The People of the Parish

#### 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.