

Burrishoole Parish

Dec 17th/18th 2022

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

Confessions?

As a priest I hear less and less confessions and those I do hear are usually of the 'shopping list' variety, a habit we sadly learn from an early age.

I remember once hearing a young boy's first confession. When he had named out his two or three sins I casually asked him 'was that all?' With a scrunched up nose and worried little face he thought for a few seconds and then with a big broad smile he answered; 'Yes Father, but I will have more the next time!'

For most of us it has become the forgotten sacrament. Give us baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage even Anointing of the Sick – and hopefully in that order, but the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Confession? Hasn't sin gone out of fashion, and anyway if we do need forgiveness can't we go directly to God ourselves? Why bother the priest – isn't he's killed out already!

There are many reasons why our sense of sin seems to have almost disappeared. In many ways it is a response to the past when there was undoubtedly an over emphasis on sin and not enough emphasis on God's boundless mercy. Sin and guilt almost became the hallmark of Irish Catholicism.

But have we lost our sense of sin because we have lost our sense of God? Perhaps we have never moved on from the image of God as the great book keeper in the sky, who ignoring the heroism of our ordinary lives, just sits there adding to his list of misdemeanours and waiting to pounce.

Do you remember in the story of the Prodigal Son what happens when the wayward son turns for home? As soon as his father sees him, he immediately drops everything, runs to him, and 'clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly'. So overjoyed was the father at his son's return and so anxious to forgive, that he doesn't even give his son an opportunity to begin his well-rehearsed speech of sorrow. There is no mention here of that great big ledger, no reconciling of lists, no accusation or recrimination – only total and unconditional mercy and forgiveness.

You will have noticed during these cold, clear and frosty days how dirty the car windscreen seems to

have become. In the dark and rain we seldom see the smudges, grime and imperfections on the glass. It is only in the bright light of the morning or evening sun that they appear.

It is in looking at the light that we become aware of our darkness. In looking towards God, in turning our attention to God we inevitably become aware of the dark areas and smudges in our own lives. But what does God see? God only sees God's beautiful child, God's wonderful creation turning for home - and that same God comes to meet us, not with an opened ledger, but rather with opened and welcoming arms wanting only to clasp us in those arms and to kiss us tenderly.

You see, Confession, The Sacrament of Reconciliation isn't for God's sake – it's for our sake! God already knows our sins. But for us to come to know God's mercy we must experience it, we must turn towards the Light of God's presence. Our Christmas Penitential Service will take place this Tuesday at 7pm in Mulranny and at 8pm in Newport. A number of priests will be available and you would be more than welcome.

God Bless, Fr Tod

Daily Mass

Please note that there will be no Monday Mass this week and that there will be no daily Mass next week Mon-Fri, 26th- 30th December.

Christmas Confessions

Christmas Penitential Services will be held on ***Tuesday Dec 20th*** in Mulranny at 7pm and in Newport at 8pm. A number of priests will be in attendance.

Christmas Mass Schedule

<u>Christmas Eve:</u>	Tiernaur at	7pm.
	Newport at	9pm
<u>Christmas Day:</u>	Shramore at	8.30am
	Newport at	10am
	Mulranny at	11.30am

Christmas Visits

Fr Tod intends to visit the sick and housebound of the parish this Tuesday. Mulranny, Tiernaur and Shramore in the morning and Newport in the afternoon. Mass in St Brendan's, Mulranny at 3pm on Thursday.

Burrishoole GAA

Burrishoole GAA wishes its members and the wider community a very happy, safe Christmas and all the best for the year ahead. Club is Community, and they would love to have you involved for 2023.

Welcome Home!

A warm welcome to all who are home for the Christmas period. Your presence with us is deeply appreciated by your family and your community. You have been missed.

This year we have quite a few Ukrainians in our community who will be spending Christmas away from home and away from their loved ones. We can only imagine how traumatic this past year has been for them. This Christmas we have a real opportunity to open our hearts and our doors to those who have come seeking refuge in our Inn.

Priest's Christmas Collection

The Priest's Christmas Collection (Blue Envelope) will be taken up over the coming weeks. 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. As always thank you must sincerely for your generous support.

Tiernaut Hall 25 Card Drive

Tiernaut Hall Committee will host its annual New Year 25 card drive on Friday, January 6, at 8pm in the Hall with lots of prizes to be won and refreshments being served. All regular and new players are welcome to come along for a great night's entertainment.

Burrishoole 5k Walk, Jog, or Run

The Burrishoole GAA 5k walk, jog or run is back for St Stephen's day and is open to all. A lovely morning is planned with registration from 10.30am for a 11am start. Donations given in aid of our local branch of the Red Cross.

Newport Bingo

Newport Bingo is finished for 2022 and will be back sometime in the new year. It is a very small group of volunteers who are trying to keep the Bingo going and they hope some people will attend their AGM on January 4, in Hotel Newport at 8pm. Any support, big or small, would be very much appreciated.

Community Centre Extra Draw

Burrishoole Community Centre 50/50 Lotto has an extra Christmas Draw on December 23, for a €40 voucher for the Gráinne Uaile Restaurant and Bar. To be entered into the draw, play the 50/50 Lotto anytime between now and Friday 23.

Parish Magazine Now on Sale

Burrishoole Parish Magazine is now on sale priced at €8. As usual, it is an interesting read and a great way for those working and living away to keep connected to home. It can be purchased in Mulranny from Doherty's PO, and in Newport from Ashlings, Sheridan's Centra, Newport Post Office, Kelly's Circle K Garage, Kelly's and Keane's butchers, and Newport Tourist Office.

Remembering our Dead

We pray for the souls of Delia Walsh, Clogher, mother of Seamus Walsh, Newport and Michael Cafferkey, London and Ballycroy, brother of Nora McGowan, Newport. May they rest in peace

Weekday Masses 10am

Tues/Thurs-Newport, Fri-Mulranny

Vera O'Brien and Martina O'Brien. Michael Kilroy and his wife Nan (*no Mass Monday*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday Dec 17th Tiernaut at 7pm:

Jim and Tom O'Boyle, Knockbreaga. Ciss O'Boyle and deceased family members. Martin and Delia Hanley, Mulranny and deceased family members. Frank and Annie Mc Nea and deceased family members.

Sunday Dec 18th Newport at 10am:

Noreen Folan, US and Graffy (Months Mind). Vera O'Brien, Ballintubber, her daughter Martina O'Brien and deceased members of the O'Brien and Egan families. Martin Sweeney, Newport and Harrow and his parents Mickie and Birdie. Deceased members of the Meenaghan and Moran families, Derrada. Philomena Moran, Fauleens and her parents Jack and Katie O'Haire.

Sunday Dec 18th Mulranny at 11.30am:

Martin Carey, Mulranny, (1st Ann). Paddy and Mary Callaghan, Tureen. Martin McGee, Tonragee. Annie Nixon, Mulranny. Family and friends of May Kilkenny and staff and residents of St Brendans.

Saturday Dec 24th Christmas Eve

Tiernaut at 7pm

Newport at 9pm

Sunday Dec 25th Christmas Day

Shramore at 8.30am

Newport at 10am

Mulranny at 11.30am.