

**Burrishoole Parish**

**February 19<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**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](mailto:burrishooleparish@gmail.com)***

***Facebook/YouTube: Burrishoole Parish***

**Confirmation - Beginning or End?**

Although Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation, bestowing as it does full membership into the life of the church, it has become for many, if not for most, the sacrament of exit. Coming as it does towards the end of a child's time at national school it is, I think, more associated with endings rather than with new beginnings. Despite our best intentions Confirmation has become part of an extended rite of passage where the child leaves behind childish ways and begins to take on a more adult way of life. Whether we like it or not moving onto secondary school marks the beginning of the end of many children's participation at regular Sunday Mass.

And yet, Confirmation is best understood as an initiation sacrament. At our Confirmation we say yes to our baptism. We 'confirm' the decision made by our parents for us when as infants they had us baptised. We accept the light of faith for ourselves and we take on the responsibility of keeping that light alight in our hearts.

But the sacrament of Confirmation is more than just a confirmation by the child of their baptism. The sacrament of Confirmation is also an important statement for their parents. In presenting their child for Confirmation parents are not just affirming their child's baptism, they are making an important public statement that faith is important for them and for their home.

This year our Pre-Confirmation parish preparation programme will be somewhat different than in previous years. In previous years we ran the *You Shall Be My Witnesses* programme which involved a group of parents presenting the programme to the children over four nights. Following a meeting with the parents of the children we agreed to try something different this year.

On Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> the 75 children, who will please God receive their Confirmation next May, will be presented to the parish community. At Sunday Mass, they along with their parents, will publicly commit to following the preparation programmes at home, at school and in Church. Then on Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> both the children and

their parents will gather in Tiernaur Church for a 'Ceremony of Light'. A key moment of that ceremony will be when parents hand the lighted Baptismal candle to their child, acknowledging that their child is now ready to begin carrying it themselves. The children and their parents will again gather at Sunday Mass on April 30<sup>th</sup> and invite the parish community to pray for them as they enter their final days of preparation, and on Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, again in Tiernaur Church they will gather with their families for a Service of Reconciliation. The Confirmation itself will take place on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. In order to help parents engage with their children around the Sacrament each family will receive a copy of the Youcat Confirmation book. It is hoped that families might use this book as a resource to learn more about the sacrament and as a tool to deepen their faith.

I have no doubt but that Confirmation will eventually be pushed out to a time when children are a bit older – perhaps first or second year in secondary school. It will be a sacrament of choice and will coincide with the beginning of a new phase of life for the child. Until that change happens we as a community need to be particularly attentive to what we can do to support our Confirmation children in their preparation for, and their celebration of the sacrament. Let us mark the beginning. Our job begins now.

God bless, Fr Tod

**Ash Wednesday**

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Ashes will be distributed following Masses in the Oratory, Newport at 8am, in Mulranny at 10am and in Tiernaur at 7pm. Why not try to attend Mass on Wednesday and perhaps on one weekday a week for the duration of Lent.

**Lenten Early Morning Mass**

For Lent this year we will celebrate an early morning Mass at 7.30am each Tuesday in the Oratory, Newport with Mass in the Oratory on Thursdays at 7pm. Mass on Mondays in Tiernaur and on Fridays in Mulranny will continue at the usual time of 10am. Plenty of choice.

**Ministers of the Word and Eucharist**

A short evening of reflection for all Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist will be held on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Tiernaur Church. All are encouraged to attend. The evening will conclude with some light refreshments in Nevins of Tiernaur.

### **What do we believe?**

During Lent it is proposed to hold a short introductory course on the Catechism of the Catholic Church which presents the essential teachings of the Catholic Church. The course, beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup> will be held over 4 Wednesday evenings and is open to all. If you are interested please give your name to Fr Tod or contact the Parish Office.

### **Parish Envelope Boxes**

The parish offertory envelope boxes for the coming year are now available in the parish churches. Parishioners are encouraged to pick up theirs over the coming weeks. If changes need to be made to the name or the address on your box, please let the parish office know at 098 41123.

### **Ukraine Invasion 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**

To mark the 1st anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and to stand in solidarity with the many Ukrainians who have sought refuge in our community a short candle lit Vigil of prayer will be held next Friday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on the Viaduct in Newport. Please come along and show your support.

### **St Patrick's Day Card**

Our Pizza and Coke group would like to send a St Patrick's Day Card on behalf of the parish to parishioners away from home. If you have a son or daughter, brother or sister abroad and would like them to receive a card please drop their name into the parish office before Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Newport Bingo**

Newport Bingo will recommence on Wednesday, March 1, at 8pm in Hotel Newport with a starting jackpot of €300. All welcome

### **Mayo Cancer Support**

Local charity, Mayo Cancer Support wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to all those who so generously supported their Church Gate Collection on the weekend of February 12. A total of €907.84 was raised. The funds raised will help sustain the charity's ongoing delivery of free emotional support to people affected by cancer.

### **Burrishoole Community Games AGM**

Burrishoole Community Games is holding its AGM next Wednesday 22nd, at 7.30pm in the Burrishoole GAA Club House. The committee would welcome some additional help to keep the games running.

### **Grainne Uaile Festival Appeal**

Plans are underway for the Newport Grainne Uaile Festival 2023 which will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend. As always there will be lots of family entertainment and live music on the streets. The festival activities are free to all but they come with high insurance costs as well as booking fees etc. A GoFundMe page has been set up by committee members Carol O'Malley and Hayley Kilroy in advance to help meet these costs. Visit [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and look for Newport Grainne Uaile Festival and ensure this summer family event continues.

### **Remembering our Dead**

We pray for the souls of John O'Donnell, England, brother of Chrisy Kelly, Castlebar St. and Margie Mahon, Nass, mother of the late Olga Horan. May they rest in peace

### **Weekday Masses**

*Mon-Tiernaur/Tues/Thurs-Newport Fri-Mulranny*  
For Peace

### **Weekend Masses**

#### **Saturday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Tiernaur at 7pm**

Annie and Frank Mc Nea and deceased family members. Gerard Sweeney Harrow and Sandhill and deceased family members.

#### **Sunday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Newport at 10am**

Denis and Margaret Conway, Skirdagh, Patrick and Ellen Carey, Keenagh and deceased family members. Martin and Bridget Murray, Abbeyville and deceased members of the Murray and Doherty families.

#### **Sunday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am**

Michael Masterson (Frank) Mulranny

#### **Saturday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Tiernaur at 7pm:**

The People of the Parish

#### **Sunday Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Newport at 10am:**

Mary Geraty, Newport (Months Mind). Aiden Geraghty, Derrygarve, (Months Mind). Seamus Kelly Castlebar Rd, (1<sup>st</sup> Ann). Emmanuel Abraham, India. JohnJoe Chambers, Upper Skirdagh and deceased family members.

#### **Sunday Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am:**

Veronica and Thomas Corrigan and daughter Mary, Doughill. Frank and Annie Grealis and deceased family members, Cushleca. Thomas and Ann Doherty, Mulranny.