

**Burrishoole Parish**  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> 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***

### **Putting Christmas Away**

I put away the parish church crib figures during the week. They form a motley crew. The ravages of time have taken their toll. The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem seems to have left its mark on a very dishevelled looking Joseph. The flute playing shepherd has lost its flute and his mate is carrying a broken arm. One of the Wise Men has suffered a deep gash in his side – no doubt the result of a swordfight along the way and the aging one-eared donkey is beginning to look just a little forlorn (I wonder if he is related to the no-eared donkey in Tiernaur?)

There is something slightly sad about putting away Christmas for another year. We look forward to Christmas for so long and then suddenly it is all over. No sooner has the last of the crackers been pulled and the remaining Roses been scoffed than the Crib and the decorations seem strangely out of place. Like the tired and now half inflated birthday balloon still hanging around weeks after the birthday has been celebrated, the Christmas decorations quickly seem odd and weirdly inappropriate. And so back into the attic they go for another eleven months.

I'm not sure how old the crib figures are in any of our churches but I think it is true to say that they have seen a fair few Christmases at this stage. They could do with sprucing up and maybe even a dash of paint. Yet somehow their imperfection reminds us that that first Christmas was far from perfect. Mary had just given birth! (of all the figures in the crib she is the best kept and looks strangely serene after the ordeal), Joseph was flustered and tired after the journey, the shepherds came as they were – unprepared, the Wise Men must have looked strange and completely out of place and the animals were... animals, more than likely dirty and smelly. It was into that very chaotic and imperfect world that God chose to come as one of us.

I sometimes think that we have romanticized the Crib too much. We have made it cosy and perfect. We look at it and feel all warm and fuzzy inside... a bit like when we look at the decorated

shimmering Christmas tree or the smiling pleasantly plump Santy. It gives us that Christmas feeling.

The Crib does give us that Christmas feeling but it is much more than just another Christmas decoration. It reminds us of what we celebrate at Christmas. It tells us that God chose to come among us a vulnerable child, that God seeks to enter our imperfect world, that God meets and loves as we are and where we are. The Crib is the story of Christmas, but the story of Christmas is not just for Christmas – it is for everyday and for all year around.

Some people leave up their Crib throughout the year! Perhaps it reminds them that we are all called to seek out the Christ child in the least obvious of places and at the most unexpected of times. Perhaps it brings home to them that Christ is to be found in their ordinary and messy lives. Perhaps it highlights for them that God has a preference for the poor and flawed over the wealthy and outwardly perfect. Whatever its reason, leaving the crib out is a powerful declaration that the crib is much more than a decoration and that Jesus has a place in our homes – not just at Christmas.

Thank you to all involved in erecting our parish cribs. We look forward to seeing our motley crew of figures out again in a few months time!

God Bless, Fr Tod

### **Covid 19**

Although not required by current restrictions, in order to keep people as safe as possible we will continue to close off every second pew in each of our churches. You are reminded to use the hand sanitizer on entering the Church and to maintain social distancing at all times. There is no Sunday obligation.

### **Rising numbers and Self Isolation**

Over recent weeks the numbers testing positive for Coronavirus have risen dramatically. As numbers contracting the disease increase so too does the number of close contacts who need to self-isolate also. In the event that Fr Tod tests positive all weekday and Sunday Masses with a congregation will cease. Mass will continue via Facebook.

### **Funerals**

Just a note to remind parishioners that on the occasion of a weekday Funeral the daily Mass on that day will be cancelled. In the event of a Sunday funeral in Newport, Mass times will change with Mulranny, meaning Mass in Mulranny will be at 10am.

### **First Communion/Confirmation**

Subject to the now all-too-familiar Covid caveats it is provisionally proposed to hold First Communion in Mulranny on the weekend of April 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and in Newport on the weekend of May 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>. The provisional date for our Parish Confirmation on Saturday March 12th.

Current infection rates in the community mean that our parish preparation programme for both Sacraments will not commence for the time being.

### **Envelope Collection**

The Priest's Christmas Collection (Blue Envelope) is now being taken up. Thank you for your generosity. If you have overlooked returning your envelope you are invited to do so over the next few weeks. Should you wish 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.

### **Bereavement Support**

Anam Cara Mayo, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 25th January at 7:20pm in the T. F Royal Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

### **Operation Transformation Newport 2022**

Newport Business Association is hosting the Operation Transformation walks again this year. The launch walk is this Sunday, January 16, at 11am in line with the nationwide OT walk. Weekly walks will take place every Wednesday at 7pm and every Saturday morning at 11am from the Ned Lyons statue on Meddlicott Street for eight weeks. See *Newport Operation Transformation* Facebook page for updates and bring along your friends and family for a fun community-friendly event. Don't forget to wear your high viz.

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'You can't go back and change  
the beginning,

but you can start where you are and change  
the ending'

C. S. Lewis

### **Thank You from Hospice**

Many thanks are expressed to all in the area who supported the Mayo Roscommon Hospice this Christmas by either buying Christmas cards or Shine-a-light cards. Due to the high Covid infection rate, the ecumenical service of remembrance has been postponed until February/March.

### **Congratulations**

Congrats to Eleana Chambers, Alana and Grace Mc Donnell, Rachel Knox, Ava and Carla Palasz, Hannah Sheehy, Ava Kelly, Anna Chambers and Aoibheann Chambers and coach Clodagh Mc Manamon who were all part of the Sacred Heart team which won the Connaught Junior title last week

### **Remembering our Dead**

We pray for the soul of Mary Kilkerr (nee McGreal), Shramore. May she rest in peace

### **Mass Schedule**

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

*Mon-Tiernaur, Tues/Thurs-Newport, Fri-Mulranny*  
Those Bereaved by Coronavirus.

### **Weekend Masses**

#### **Saturday January 15th Tiernaur at 7pm:**

Annie Chambers, her husband Tom, Knockloughra and deceased members of the Chambers and McCormack families.

#### **Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup> Newport at 10am:**

Michael Cafferkey, Trienbeg. (1<sup>st</sup> Ann)

#### **Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am:**

The People of the Parish

#### **Saturday January 22nd Tiernaur at 7pm**

The People of the Parish.

#### **Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup> Newport at 10am:**

Nancy and Colm Gallagher, shramore and the deceased members of the Gallagher and Chambers families

#### **Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am:**

Martin Carey, Mulranny (Months Mind). Phoebe Masterson, Murrivagh