

Burrishoole Parish

September 24th 2023

Fr Tod Nolan P.P.

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

The Guru's Cat

Not many people noticed, but I did. From my vantage point I had the best view.

It was just after Communion when I first spotted him – a little cat making its way up the centre aisle of Newport Church during Sunday Mass! At first it seemed unperturbed by the praying congregation but the further it came into the church the more wary it became. Finally the little cat darted into the pews before quickly re-emerging and scuttling back out through the main door from whence it had entered. Gone but not forgotten.

What had brought the timid little cat into a vast crowded church? Was it in search of a faith community or little spiritual comfort or maybe even a church mouse? Was it disappointed by what it found or perhaps by what it didn't find? Will it come back? We will have to wait and see.

The arrival of our church cat brought to mind another church cat; 'The Guru's Cat'. *The Guru's Cat* is a short allegorical story written by the famous Indian Jesuit priest, Anthony de Mello:

'When the Guru sat down to worship each evening the church cat would get in the way and distract the worshippers. So the Guru ordered that the cat be tied during evening worship.

After the Guru died, the cat continued to be tied up during evening worship. And when the cat died, another cat was brought to the church so that it could be duly tied during evening worship.

Centuries later, learned treatises were written by the Guru's scholarly disciples on the liturgical significance of tying up a cat while worship is performed.'

De Mello's simple story is for all of us. The story of the guru's cat is an encouragement and an invitation to review what we do habitually and to ask: Why do we do what we do? Why do we say what we say? Why do we use what we use? Is what we're doing still appropriate and beneficial today? Is what we're doing on a daily basis still achieving what it was originally intended to do? Or is it perhaps becoming a distraction, clutter, confusion ... another guru's cat?

As a parish faith community and as individuals it is important that we do not get too obsessed with the repetition of what we have always done without asking why we are doing it? Why expect, even assume, a vibrant parish community if we are not prepared to help sustain and build it? Why present our children for the sacraments if faith is not important in our home? Why keep and maintain our lovely churches if we do not visit them as sacred places. It can and does happen that we get so caught up on the externals that we lose sight of the essentials. What are the essentials of our faith?

Our little feline visitor came and went almost unnoticed. Unlike the Guru's cat it is gone, but it has left us with some questions!

God Bless, Fr Tod

First Friday Visits

Fr Tod will do his 'First Friday' October visits this week, on Thursday visiting Mulranny, Tiernaur and Shramore and on Friday visiting the Newport area.

Station/Neighbourhood Masses

It is hoped to resume this lovely tradition this Autumn. Families are invited to consider the possibility of having Mass celebrated in their homes during October/November. Please contact Fr Tod if you would like to arrange a date.

Priest's Autumn Collection

The Priest's Autumn Collection (Blue Envelope) is now being taken up. This is one of the four annual collections used to fund the priest's monthly stipend. Thank you for your continued generous support, particular during a time when many homes are struggling with the cost of living.

Newport Bingo

No winner of the jackpot on Sep 20th; new jackpot of €775, to be won in 54 calls or less this Wednesday in Hotel Newport. Doors open 7.30pm; eyes down at 8pm sharp. All welcome.

Crochet Knitting And Machine Sewing Classes

Every Wednesday at 2pm in the Mulranny Amenity Centre. Tuition funded by ETB. One off payment of €10 for ICA members and €15 for non-members. All levels welcome, come join in.

Active Retirement Meeting

Mulranny Active Retirement will hold their next meeting in the Amenity Centre, Mulranny on Wednesday, October 11, at 7pm. All are welcome including new members.

'It's Cardiac Rehab!' - Podcast Series

The Irish Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Irish Heart Foundation have teamed up to develop a podcast series – 'It's Cardiac Rehab!' to educate and inform people who have experienced a cardiac event about cardiac rehabilitation. Visit <https://irishheart.ie/services-for-you/its-cardiac-rehab-podcast/>

Halloween St Patricks Day Parade Fundraiser

The St Patrick's Day Committee are holding a Halloween Fancy Dress Disco in Hotel Newport on Sunday, October 29, with dancing until late. All funds raised go towards the cost of running the parade. Fancy dress is optional but fun so get planning; all support greatly appreciated.

PTAA Mini-Vigil

The Connacht PTA Association invites you to a Mini-Vigil in the Parish Church in Knock on Friday, Sep 29th from 8.30pm – 12 midnight.

Mulranny Whist

Mulranny Whist will resume on Thursday, Sep 28, at 8pm in McLoughlin's, Mulranny. The regulars are looking forward to meeting up again and new players are welcome; tuition will be given if needed.

Burrishoole Graveyard and Pattern Committee

A sincere thank you to all who contributed so generously to the annual envelope and bucket collection. The funds will help with the cost of their latest projects of extending the water pipe and erecting a wall and concrete fencing around the new graveyard. In particular they thank William Long, Sean Walsh, Padraic Mulchrone, Padraic O'Malley and Charles Reilly for their kind donations and the Councillors who made contributions from their annual allowance. Thank you to Padraic O'Malley for the use of his field for the Pattern Games which followed the Mass. Thanks also to all the volunteers and the RSS crew who helped to maintain the graveyard this year and have it looking its best for the Mass.

Mayo PPN Committee Vacancies

Mayo Public Participation Network currently have vacancies and are seeking members from local organisations to join the PPN committee. The committee meets 4-6 times per year with a mix of in-person and online meetings. The PPN committee monitors the activities of the PPN and approves the PPN budget and workplan for the year ahead. Development. visit <https://mayoppn.ie/vacancies-on-mayo-ppn-secretariat-committee/>

Donation to Hospice

Mulranny Golf Club has donated a cheque for €250 to Mayo Roscommon Hospice on behalf of Burrishoole who were the winning team of the County Championship Cup which they hosted recently. Many thanks to all who played and supported the event in any way.

Newport Foróige

Newport Foróige (for first years only) is back. It is a great opportunity for young people to socialise in a safe environment and get involved in their community.

As a new club with new leaders the organisers have been advised to keep the numbers low and restrict it to 1st years. Parents of 2nd and 3rd year students are welcome to contact Martin Donohue at 086 827 5685 to set up their own club.

Remembering our Dead

We pray for the souls of Kieran Thompson, Newport House and Ann Riegel (nee Coggans) New York and formerly Newbridge St., Newport. May they rest in peace.

Weekday Masses at 10am

Mon-Tiernaur, Tues/Thurs-Newport, Fri-Mulranny
Teddy and Aggie Mulchrone, Georges St and deceased family members. Tommy and Ann Mulchrone, Buckagh and Louth.

Weekend Masses

Saturday September 23rd Tiernaur at 7pm

Thomas and Christina Cusack. Patrick Costello, Knocknagaoithe. Matthias and May B Moran, Sandhill.

Sunday September 24th Newport at 10am

Bernadette Fergus, Acres. Paddy Tresnan, Derradda. Michael Kearns, Quay Road.

Sunday Sept 24th Mulranny at 11.30am

Thomas Mulloy, Mulranny

Saturday Sept 30th Tiernaur at 7pm

The People of the Parish

Sunday Oct 1st Newport at 10am

Elizabeth O Toole, St Dominick's and Cortoon (Month's Mind)

Sunday Oct 1st Mulranny at 11.30am

Olive Sherlock, Murrivagh and Dublin (Month's Mind)