

Burrishoole Parish

February 12th 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

Facebook/YouTube: Burrishoole Parish

What Does It Mean?

Sean and I are old school friends who now only manage to meet up once or twice a year. Time and work commitments have made it more difficult, but when he's down west or when I'm in Dublin we usually make the effort to connect for coffee or lunch just to catch up on life and family.

When I met Sean recently, he wasn't long after his prostate surgery and we joked that we were now at that stage in our lives. He looked well and thankfully the prognosis was good. We chatted about the usual; he about his family and the different stages that they were at in college and me about the parish and the various ongoing projects that I am involved with.

Over lunch as we chatted about the usual I could sense that there was something on his mind and sure enough after a bit of a pause he began...

'You know something' he started, 'when I was being admitted for my operation there were a lot of forms to be filled out for the hospital but one question they asked me was for my religious preference. To tell you the truth I hadn't given it much thought beforehand, but I put down Catholic. It was only afterwards that I wondered why.'

I knew even though Sean had had all his children baptised and had done all the 'Catholic' things, that over the years he had drifted away from regular practice and that religion hadn't been something that played an important role in his life for some time.

'Why did you put it down?' I probed, 'you could have simply ticked 'no preference' or left it blank'. 'Ah I couldn't do that' he said, half-jokingly adding 'what if something went wrong with the operation! But seriously', he went on, 'the whole experience made me wonder what, if anything, it means for me to say I am Catholic'.

We chatted a little further. In all his years Sean had taken his 'Catholic' identity for granted. He appreciated that being 'Catholic' was not just about attending weekly Mass. He knew that there were somethings about the Catholic church that he would like to change and other things that he simply didn't agree with but yet there was

something within him that identified as Catholic. 'You see' he concluded, 'I didn't lie on that form. It felt right to put down 'Catholic'. That's what I am, but it's just that I am not sure what that means.' My conversation with Sean set me thinking. What does it mean for us to say that we are Catholic? What is distinctive about what we believe? What do we believe? What are we supposed to believe? For most of us what little religious education we have come to an end when we finished school and we now find ourselves navigating an ever more complicated adult world while relying on a pretty basic understanding of faith. We are all too aware of our Church's sins and failings, our media repeatedly reminds us that the Church is out of step on various issues, we think we know what we don't believe yet we not being quite sure what, as Catholics, we are asked to believe.

What does it mean to be Catholic? What do we believe? These are some of the questions we will explore over four Wednesday evenings in Lent. Beginning on March 1st at 7pm we will explore the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Why not join us?

God bless, Fr Tod

Confirmation 2023

Thank you to all who were able to attend last week's meeting. Our Confirmation Enrolment Mass will take place on Sunday March 5th. The 'Ceremony of Light' will be celebrated on Tuesday March 28th at 7pm in Tiernaur Church

First Communion

The next First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Sunday February 26th. First Confession for children in Newport NS will take place in the Oratory on Tuesday March 14th.

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 20th at 7pm in Tiernaur Church. All are encouraged to attend. The evening will conclude with some light refreshments in Nevins of Tiernaur.

Lenten Early Morning Mass

Lent begins on Wednesday February 22nd (Ash Wednesday). For Lent this year we will hold an early morning Mass at 7.30am on Tuesdays in the Oratory. Mass on Thursday in the Oratory will be at 7pm with Mass on Monday in Tiernaur and on Friday in Mulranny at 10am. Why not try to go attend a weekday Mass for Lent?

What do we believe?

What does it mean to be Catholic? Why be a member of our church? What do we believe? Where can we find answers to those questions?

The answers to those questions, and more besides, can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. 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 1st 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. If you aren't receiving a box and would like to, or alternatively if you are receiving a box and would prefer not to, please do get in touch.

Missing Kittens

Two much loved five month old black kittens have disappeared from Black Oak Rise and the owner is appealing to anyone who has come across them to contact 087 144 3577. They were seen leaving the area following other cats; if you have spotted them, please contact the owner so they may be reunited.

Community Consultation Meeting

Newport Cultural/Heritage Centre Group is holding an informal Community Consultation meeting on Thursday 16, at 7pm in Newport Tourist Office. If you would like to see a Cultural/Heritage Centre in Newport Town you are invited to attend and bring your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to the meeting. The group would like to hear of any opportunities for a suitable site location as well as ideas for its content. All are welcome and any ideas worth pursuing will be followed up.

Mayo Cancer Support Outreach Clinic

The next date for Mayo Cancer Support's Achill Outreach Service is Thursday, February 16. They provide free emotional support to people affected by cancer; this service is by appointment only at Achill Primary Healthcare Centre. For more info or to book an appointment call (094)9038407 or (087)2804164.

Newport Bingo

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

Mulranny ICA meeting

The next guild meeting will take place on Tues, Feb14, at 8pm in the Amenity Centre. All welcome

Diocesan Pilgrimages

The Tuam Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Archbishop Francis, from Knock, 5 nights, Fri Sept 1st to Weds, Sept 6th 2023. Medjugorje & Cavtat, June 28th, 7 nights (4+3), limited availability. Contact 09328337 or 012410800.

Weekday Masses 10am

Mon-Tiernaur/Tues/Thurs-Newport Fri-Mulranny
The People of Syria and Turkey

Weekend Masses

Saturday Feb 11th Tiernaur at 7pm:

Brian Sinnott, Newport (Months Mind). John and MaryAnn Cannon, Roskeen and deceased family members. Jane and Michael O Malley, Ardagh, their son Michael and the deceased members of the O Malley and Prendergast families

Sunday Feb 12th Newport at 10am:

Peter and Bridget Doherty, Cuilmore PO and the deceased members of the Doherty and Chambers families. Charlie and Bernie O Donnell, Derrylahan. James Ryder, and his parents Charlotte and James. Pauline, Michael and Susan Sheridan, Castlebar St.

Sunday Feb 12th Mulranny at 11.30am:

Peter and Helen McNea, Carrowsallagh and Patrick and Rose Barrett, Murrivagh. Rose loftus, Bunahowna and deceased family members. Bridgie Masterson (Frank), Mulranny.

Saturday Feb 18th Tiernaur at 7pm

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

Sunday Feb 19th 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 19th Mulranny at 11.30am

Michael Masterson (Frank) Mulranny