

Burrishoole Parish

Christmas Day 2022

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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 good is it for me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 1400 years ago and I don't give birth to God's son in my person and my culture and my times?”

Meister Eckhart 13th Century

Happy Christmas and Welcome!

A Happy Christmas to all. A special word of blessing and 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.

May you be blessed. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

This year we welcome among us quite a few Ukrainians 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.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Christmas Day falling on a Sunday is a priest's dream; not only does it give a whole week of lead in time, but it also means that we are not moving from Christmas Day straight into (or out of) a full schedule of weekend Masses. Unfortunately, it only happens once every seven years – next year Christmas day falls on a Monday!

I have enjoyed the last week of Advent.

The week started with the rearranged Cór Maigh Eó Christmas Concert at which we were treated to some brilliantly arranged and beautifully sung choral pieces together with a few of the old reliables such as Adeste Fideles and Hark the Herald. Final visits to the schools for Christmas plays always bring great joy. The undaunted enthusiasm and sheer determination of the children is of itself something to gladden the heart and despite the occasional fluffed line or technical hitch everyone leaves with a smile on their face.

On Tuesday I had the privilege of visiting the sick and housebound of the parish. It is lovely to have the opportunity to spend some time in chat and prayer with some of our more elderly parishioners. To say the welcome I receive as I arrive with the Blessed Sacrament is warm would be an understatement. I sometimes think that we take for granted the great wisdom and experience that our elderly offer. They have been through it all and offer a great insight and balance as they observe our frenzied efforts to make the 'perfect Christmas'. The delight of my Christmas visits is tinged however with a certain sadness as I pass homes where once I would have visited and remember those kind hearts and friendly faces who are now with God. Christmas is also a time mixed with sadness for some families of our community.

Christmas Mass in St. Brendan's is a wonderful experience. The prayers of the Mass and the familiarity of Christmas carols often reawaken memories which have been lost in a haze of forgetfulness. It is heart-warming and touching to see smiles of recognition form as residents, who perhaps have grown silent through the ravages of dementia and Alzheimer's suddenly find their voice and join in the singing. I am also moved at the wonderful care which the residents receive, and I continue to be inspired by both the staff of St Brendan's and the army of home-helpers who transverse the parish everyday of the year bringing care and friendship to so many.

Penitential Services are celebrated in different parishes each evening in the run up to Christmas and so I find myself joining my fellow priests as we team up and travel from place to place. Penitential Services are lovely occasions which offer comfort and healing to all. In a way they are a lost opportunity. There was a time when I worried whether we would have enough priests to cater for the number of penitents, nowadays the concern is whether we will have enough penitents to justify the number of priests.

As the week goes on the 'spirit' of Christmas becomes more tangible as shoppers getting the last bits and pieces go about their business with a smile on the faces and a sense of anticipation in their hearts. Parents and grandparents look forward to the arrival home of sons and daughters from all over the world while children count the number of sleeps on one hand.

The churches are ready, the choirs have rehearsed, the manger lies waiting. 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'.

God Bless and Happy Christmas, Fr Tod

Daily Mass

Please note that there will be no daily Mass next week Mon-Fri, 26th- 30th December. You are invited to visit any of our parish Churches and to visit the Crib and perhaps light a candle.

Priest's Christmas Collection

The Priest's Christmas Collection (Blue topped 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 for your continued generous support.

St Vincent de Paul

Thank you to Cór Maigh Eo for donating all monies raised at their recent concert to Newport VdeP. A total of €1,267 was collected. A further €1016 has been donated over the past two weeks.

Mulranny ICA

Mulranny ICA wishes a very Happy New Year to all its members. The next meeting will take place on January 10, at 8pm in the Amenity Centre, Mulranny when annual membership is due. A 50% discount January special offer is open to new members, so why not give it a try and join them?

NADDCo AGM

Newport and District Development Company (NADDCo) will hold its AGM on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 8pm in Walsh's Bridge Inn, Newport and all are welcome to attend.

Glenhest 25 Card Game

The next game will take place on January 8, 2023 in the centre at 6pm. The committee wishes all of their patrons a Happy and Safe New Year.

Newport Christmas Lights

If you would like to show your appreciation for this year's Christmas light display donations of any size would be hugely appreciated and can be left at Keane's Meats, Main Street, Newport or online at GoFundMe page <https://gofund.me/440917c1>

Tiernaur Hall 25 Card Drive

Tiernaur 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 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.

Parish Magazine Now on Sale

Burrishoole Parish Magazine is now on sale priced at €8. 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 Peggy Sutton, Wexford, mother of Breda McCormack, Newport and Gerry Diamond, Nottingham, brother of Mary Nevin, Roskeen. May they rest in peace

Weekday Masses 10am

Mon-Tiernaur/Tues/Thurs-Newport, Fri-Mulranny
There will be **no** Mass this week

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday Dec 24th Christmas Eve

Tiernaur at 7pm

Newport at 9pm

Sunday Dec 25th Christmas Day

Shramore at 8.30am

Newport at 10am

Mulranny at 11.30am.

Weekend Masses

Saturday Dec 31st Tiernaur at 7pm:

The People of the Parish

Sunday Jan 1st Newport at 10am:

Celine Murray, Derrygarve (Months Mind). Tommy Lavelle, Furnace. Baby Joshua Murray, Buckagh. John F Chambers, Kiltarnet. Pat and Julia Keane, their daughter Mary Catherine and deceased family members. John Murray, Srahmore.

Sunday Jan 1st Mulranny at 11.30am:

James and Mary McIntyre, Murrivagh. Robert Earl Wellman, NY. Yvonne Deculich, NY.