

Burrishoole Parish
30th/31st January 2021
Fr Tod Nolan P.P. 098 42665
Parish Office 098 41123

**Office attended Tue - Thu 11am-3pm,
To book Masses, Baptisms & Marriages, get
certs & Mass cards please contact office by
phone or Email: burrishooleparish@gmail.com
Facebook: Burrishoole Parish**

You are the Light of the World

*'When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we
find light in this never ending shade?'* *

For almost a year now our world, and our lives have been lived under the ever-present gloom of Coronavirus. We have become used to living in its shade. Lockdown has meant look down – in our struggle to navigate and indeed survive this new and overcast world we forget to look up. In the prevailing darkness we fail to look for signs of light, we scurry and dash avoiding each other and even when we do meet, our masks hide the bright glow and warmth of our smiles. We look down.

And yet there is light; moments when almost despite ourselves our gaze is lifted beyond the gloom and we see again glimmers of light and hope. Driving along we catch a glimpse of the snow-capped Reek, a piece of music stops us in our tracks, a call from a friend raises our spirits, the laughter of children brings a smile to our hearts. Moments of grace call us out of our darkness and remind us that we will overcome, that hope endures... lambs playing in the fields, the kindness of a stranger, the beauty of a sunset, the raising of the soul in prayer.

Hope is all around if only we lift our eyes towards the light. We look forward to the roll out of the vaccine, the coming of the summer, the opportunity to gather again. We wait expectantly for the newborn child, the first step, days of celebration and joy. And we look back and we notice that even as we grappled in the shade light and grace abounded. We realise

*'that even as we grieved, we grew. That even as
we hurt, we hoped. That even as we tired, we
tried...'* *

Last week as I kept a half watchful eye and a curious ear on the US Presidential inauguration ceremony, I was all too aware that only two weeks previously the very steps on which the ceremony was taking place had been the site of violent mob riots. On a cold grey day with crowds limited by social distancing and the real threat of more violence, President Biden spoke well of creating a

new united United States. He spoke of healing divisions and recreating hope.

After President Biden had spoken, I looked up to see a petite young woman of colour approach the podium. Wearing a bright yellow coat and red headpiece she shattered the greyness of the occasion and cast the light of hope across a divided country and a watching world. Amanda Gorman's enthusiasm and vitality embodied the hope of which she spoke. Her words lit up a somewhat sombre event and cast their radiance across America and beyond.

*'If we merge mercy with might, and might with
right, then love becomes our legacy and change
our children's birth right.'* *

On a Hill, still resonant with Martin Luther King's 'I have a Dream' speech, 23 year old poet Amanda Gorman dared to share her own dream and vision; a dream based on Scripture's call for equality, a dream realised in the building of bridges rather than the erecting of walls.

There is always hope, because if we have the courage to look up there is always light.

*'When day comes, we step out of the shade,
aflame and unafraid.*

The new dawn blooms as we free it.

For there is always light,

If only we are brave enough to see it.

If only we are brave enough to be it.' *

God Bless, Fr Tod

*The Hill We Climb, Amanda Gorman

St Bridget's Day

Monday (Feb 1st) is the Feast of St Bridget, the second patron saint of Ireland and is the traditional day for blessing of St Bridget's Crosses. Crosses will be blessed during our online Mass on Monday, but if you would like to leave crosses in any of the Churches for Monday Fr Tod will visit each Church during the day to bless them. In order to ensure that Crosses are easily identifiable and to prevent unnecessary handling Crosses should be placed in plastic/Ziplock bags.

Candlemas Day

Tuesday (Feb 2nd) is the Feast of the Presentation, also known as Candlemas Day. Parishioners are welcome to leave candles into any of the churches for blessing on Tuesday. Blessing will take place during Mass and Fr Tod will visit each church during the day. In order to ensure that Crosses are easily identifiable and to prevent unnecessary handling candles should be placed in plastic/Ziplock bags.

Blessing of Throats

The traditional Blessing of Throats will take place during online Mass on Tuesday and Thursday next week.

Friday Children's Mass

For the period of Lockdown and while the schools are closed 10am Mass on Fridays will be our weekly Children's Mass. Families and home schoolers are invited to join us via Facebook for a more child friendly experience of Mass.

Confirmation

Parents of Confirmation children are invited to call into Newport or Mulranny Church in order to pick up a Confirmation workbook which will be used in preparation for Confirmation. The workbooks will be available from Sunday.

Our Facebook Mass at 10 am on Friday February 12th will have a particular focus on Confirmation and children preparing for Confirmation together with their families are encouraged to attend. Between now and Confirmation Day a number of 'Confirmation' Masses will be held.

Envelope Collection

Thank you for your ongoing support of your parish. In these very difficult times, your generosity is deeply appreciated. Although public Masses are again suspended envelopes can still be dropped in the letterbox of the Parish house in Newport or in the box at the rear of the church in Mulranny.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Home Sharers required.

Would you be interested in sharing your home and supporting a person with additional needs, for a few hours per day, a couple days per month, or long term. We are looking for single people, couples, married people and/or families to provide short- or long-term respite for children or adults. If you are interested please contact Western Care Association, Social Work Dept. on 094 9025133

Level 5

In Level 5 it is particularly important that we keep an eye out for the vulnerable and the elderly. If you have an elderly neighbour living alone please try to

make sure that they are ok. Often its just the wave, the quiet word or the phone call which makes the difference.

We have a Parish Volunteer Group set up which is available to assist those who are living alone or in self-isolation with collecting messages, prescriptions etc. If you need anything, please call Fr Tod on 098 41123 or Guard Ronan O Grady on 086 8333535. We are here to help.

During Level 5 all Baptisms have been suspended. Under the new restrictions only 10 people are permitted to attend a funeral and from January 2nd only 6 people can attend a wedding.

Remembering Our Dead

We pray for the souls of Walter Sammon, Ballinrobe and formerly of Carramore, Newport and John Fitzgerald, Limerick son of the late Kathleen Fitzgerald (nee Moran) Roskeen South We extend sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased. May their souls rest in peace.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is currently suspended. Our churches remain open and you are invited to drop in at any time.

Mass Schedule

Mass available only on Facebook and/or Parish Radio during current restrictions

Weekday 10am Mass Intentions:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: Tommy and Anne Mulchrone, London and Buckagh. Michael O Malley, his wife Jane and the deceased members of the O Malley and Prendergast families.

Weekend Mass Intentions

Saturday January 30th at 7pm:

Wyn Loftus and her husband John, Bunahowna

Sunday January 31st at 10am:

Tommy O Malley, Islandeady

Saturday February 6th at 7pm:

Jack and Noreen Chambers, Cleveland and Loughloughra. Paddy Hanley, Knockbreaga. Dan Coughlan, Bunahowna.

Sunday February 7th at 10am:

Bernie O Donnell, Derrylahan (1st Ann). Mary and Pat King. Mulranny