

**Burrishoole Parish**  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**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](mailto:burrishooleparish@gmail.com)  
Facebook/YouTube: Burrishoole Parish**

### **Let Him Out!**

Last weekend we had, our now annual, blessing of the Baby Jesus' of our parish. Although numbers were down slightly on other years – some Baby Jesus' were self-isolating! – it's always lovely to see so many little statues placed before the altar for blessing.

Baby Jesus' come in in all sorts of shapes and sizes; from small pudgy ones to tall lanky ones, from tiny new-borns to pretty sturdy looking six-monthers, from babies with full heads of black hair to wispy-blonds. Some came all on their own, while others came already ensconced in a fully kitted out crib – one even came in a business envelope nicely positioned inside the plastic window in order to be able to see out.

The Baby Jesus comes in all shapes and sizes and fits hearts of all shapes and sizes - from the worn out and the cynical to the grieving and the sad, from the young and enthusiastic to the weary and the tired, from the lost and the fallen to the happy and the holy. The temptation is to think that Jesus could never be born into my ordinary life, to convince myself that the mystery of Christmas is for others but not for me. If the Christmas Story teaches us anything it teaches us that Jesus is born in the most ordinary of places and at the least expected of times.

Every year Christmas becomes more and more a commercial and secular holiday. As people of faith, we struggle to keep a focus on the religious significance of Christmas. We try our best to 'keep Christ in Christmas'. But in a way keeping Christ in Christmas is to make Christ predictable and safe. As believers we can become comfortable with the Christmas story, we can, almost despite ourselves, get caught up in the cosy retelling of a heart-warming story. We can, unwittingly, confine Jesus to the stable of Bethlehem.

Celebrating Christmas is not about keeping Jesus in a manger. In celebrating Christmas we celebrate Jesus birth into our world – wherever and however we find ourselves. Christmas is about letting Jesus out of the stable and into our hearts:

*Don't keep Christ in Christmas. Let him out.  
Let him out of the box of decorations stored in the  
attic  
Let him out of prayers you only say at Midnight  
Mass  
Let him out of carols as background to your  
shopping.  
Let him out of a sentimental story cleansed of  
violence and pain  
Let him out of the crib, where he remains a  
helpless, unthreatening infant  
...where the only woman present is silent and meek  
...where poverty is romanticized with no threat and  
no smell  
...and shepherds are cuddly and everyone is white  
...and there is no messiness to obscure the miracle  
Let him out of December's candle-lit coziness  
...where his heat melts the wintry ice of our  
selfishness  
...and his buds unfold amidst the mud of injustice  
...and his flowers overtake the borders of  
manicured gardens  
...and his harvest fills barns with fruits we never  
knew existed  
Don't keep Christ in Christmas. Let him out.  
And then, when Christmas comes 'round again,  
we won't have to "keep him in it",  
for how could he not be "in Christmas"  
when he has been here, the whole time, keeping us?  
Rev Daniel B Bereton*

Happy Christmas, Fr Tod

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

<b><u>Christmas Eve:</u></b>	7pm	Tiernaur
	9pm	Newport
<b><u>Christmas Day:</u></b>	8.30am	Shramore
	10am	Newport
	11.30am	Mulranny
<b><u>*St Stephen's Day:</u></b>	11am	Newport
	12.30pm	Mulranny

Please note that in the interests of keeping everyone safe as possible, space will be limited with every second pew cordoned off. Parishioners are asked to try to maintain social distancing between family groups. There is no Sunday obligation.

If you are feeling unwell or have an underlying health condition or if you care for someone who may be vulnerable due to their health, you should remain at home. If you prefer to remain at home you are invited to join us via our Parish Facebook or YouTube pages.

**\*Note:** Masses on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – St Stephen's Day are at a later time than usual.

### **Christmas Service of Reconciliation**

A Parish Service of Reconciliation and Healing will be held via Facebook and Parish Radio on Wednesday at 7pm. The Service will allow us as a community and as individuals to explore where in our lives we are in need of healing and forgiveness and to seek God's comfort and implore God's mercy. You are invited to join as we as a community open ourselves to accept God's mercy. The Sacrament of Reconciliation – individual Confessions, will be available in our Churches on Christmas Eve. Mulranny 12-12.30pm, Tiernaur 12.45-1.15pm, Newport 1.30-2pm.

### **Mulranny Choir**

Mulranny Choir will hold their Christmas choir practice this Sunday 19th December immediately after 1130 mass. All are welcome.

### **Tiernaur Christmas Mass**

To allow for the social distancing of the musicians the Main Rd wing of Tiernaur Church will be reserved for choir members only.

### **Envelope Collection**

Thank you for your ongoing support of your parish. In these very difficult times your generosity is deeply appreciated.

The Priest's Christmas Collection (Blue 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.

### **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 (Coronavirus). If you or someone you know needs support this Christmas, please call our National Support and Referral Line on 0818 222 024 from 8am – 8pm, seven days a week. ALONE operates 365 days a year so we will be there to take your call when you need us most

### **Refugee Aid**

Parishioner Jennifer Morice (Acres) will be volunteering for the month of January with the refugees caught up in Calais. A list of much needed items is available on her Facebook page and if you would like to make a monetary donation you can drop it off at the Parish office or contact her on jennifer\_morice@hotmail.com.

### **Christmas Visits**

Fr Tod will bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound during the coming week. Visits will take place on Thursday and Christmas Eve.

### **Parish Magazine 2021**

The 2021 edition of the parish magazine is currently available at the usual outlets in Newport and Mulranny. Packed full of accounts of the highlights in business, sporting, social, artistic and cultural happenings during the year, there are also items of local historical interest.

The magazine is on sale in Newport Pharmacy, Keane's Butchers, Ashling's, Kelly's Butchers, Sheridan's Centra, Newport Post Office, Kelly's Garage, Doherty's Mulranny, and Mulranny Post Office. It costs €8 and makes an ideal stocking filler for friends and loved ones for Christmas.

### **Mass Schedule**

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

*Mon-Tiernaur, Thurs-Newport,*  
Katherine Keane Lecarrow and parents Mick and Kathleen Costello, Belcarra.  
*Note: No weekday Mass Tuesday or Friday*

#### **Weekend Masses**

#### **Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> Tiernaur at 7pm:**

Frank and Annie Mc Nea and deceased family members. Ciss O Boyle and deceased family members. Delia and Martin Hanley, Mulranny

#### **Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> Newport at 10am:**

Mick Chambers, Shramore (Mts Mind), Vera O'Brien, Ballintubber, daughter in law Martina, Kilglass, Co Roscommon deceased members of the O'Brien and Egan families. Michael Chambers, Trienbeg. Philomena Moran, Derrygarve and parents Jack and Katie O'Haire

#### **Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 11.30am:**

Zoe English, Carrowsallagh. Micheal Mc Nea, Tonragee. Judge Patrick Moran Mulranny (at request of Mulranny Tidy Towns. Anne Nixon, Murrivagh

#### **Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup> Newport at 11am:**

Patrick and Julia Keane, Derryloughan and their daughter Mary Catherine

#### **Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup> Mulranny at 12.30pm:**

Frank and Annie Grealis and deceased family members, Cushleca