

Burrishoole Parish
13th/14th February 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***

Love is in the Air

Happy Valentine's Day/Weekend!

I imagine for many a happy couple this will be a different kind of Valentine's day – no going out, no fancy present, no romantic weekend away! I suppose for most couples it will just be a night in by themselves, simple and without much commotion.

In terms of Church you might be surprised to know that although St Valentine is an 'official' saint of the Church his feast day is not celebrated on February 14th, in fact he has no feast day! February 14th is not in fact the Feast of St Valentine at all! St Valentine was however martyred on this most famous of dates and it would seem that his name is connected with all things romantic simply because February 14th was smack in the middle of a Roman pagan love festival and the early Christian church simply wanted to appropriate the date.

Our modern-day Valentines celebration would seem to owe its origin to the business acumen of the American card company Hallmark. In 1913 Hallmark produced the first commercial Valentine's day cards and as they say the rest is history.

In my time (not today or yesterday) Valentines wasn't as big a fuss as it is now. My memory is that the idea was to anonymously send a card to someone you fancied in the hope that they might figure out from whom the card came and might cast their eyes in your direction. I have to admit to sending a few cards in my day but...

Valentine's day in boarding school was always great fun. As the post was given out during lunch everyone watched out for the brightly coloured envelopes marked with SWALK. A great cheer would go up when a boy received his card and it was hard to tell whether the young recipient was filled more with mortification than with pride! On occasion it was suspected that an odd mammy had sent a card – but perhaps that was just the loser's line.

Over the years Valentine's day has become huge business. Cards are now accompanied by flowers

and gifts and couples celebrate the day in a myriad of different ways. It is good to acknowledge our love for each other and to have occasion to celebrate that love. So easily we can take each other for granted, especially those we love most in the world. We assume love and maybe even feel entitled to it. Valentine's Day is an opportunity for us to show our love for someone but also to say thanks to someone for loving us when we were at our most unlovable.

It is not big gestures or extravagant displays that show or prove our love. It is through the small and routine, quickly forgettable and often unnoticed acts of selfless kindness that the foundations of love are laid. Love is the old couple sitting quietly in front of the fire, happy in the silence and wanting nothing more than each other's company.

Coronavirus has cast its shadow over every aspect of our lives, and it has undoubtedly put enormous strain on many relationships. Perhaps this Valentine's day can provide a welcome opportunity, and even an excuse, for couples to simply be with each other. It is an occasion to be attentive to what each other's presence means, and to be thankful for the love which they can often take for granted. May you be your gift to each other. Happy Valentine's day.

I wonder will I get any cards this year?

God Bless, Fr Tod

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.

Draft Newport Town Design Statement

A draft Newport Town design statement has been completed and is on public display until Monday, March 1. It can be viewed at

www.mayo.ie/newport-town-design-statement

and the sketch drawings contained in the statement are displayed in the window of Chamber's Newsagents at the top of Main Street.

This is a really important milestone for Newport and will guide Newport's development into the future. Everyone in the town is invited and encouraged to look at the statement and the proposals put forward. Submissions on the draft statement can be made to Westport Civic Offices, Altamont Street, Westport marked "Submission on Newport Town Design statement" or by email to mduffy@mayococo.ie. Submissions should be made before Friday, March 5, 2021.

Ash Wednesday

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the first Day of Lent. The wearing of blessed Ashes on Ash Wednesday is a long-standing tradition and an important reminder to us and to all who see it, that Lent has begun.

From Monday small bags of blessed ashes will be available in each of the churches. Families/households are invited to take **one** home for use on Ash Wednesday. The Ashes should be placed on a saucer and a small amount of water used to dampen them.

If it is possible you might like to join us for 10am Mass on Ash Wednesday and use the blessed Ashes then. If not, families are invited to gather at a time that suits themselves and say the following prayer before each is marked with a cross:

O God, you ask us to turn back to you with all our hearts

We ask you now to hear our prayer as we begin this season of Lent

Pour out your blessing on us as we use this symbol of blessed ashes,

So that, out of our smallness and sinfulness, We may come to be what you have called us to be;

That we may live faithfully the vocation of our Baptism

And come to celebrate joyfully the Easter mystery.

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.

Envelope Boxes

We are currently in the process of preparing new envelope boxes for the coming year. Should you prefer not to receive a box or if your box is inaccurately labelled you might let the Office know. Alternatively, if haven't been receiving a box and would like to, please contact the Parish Office. In these challenging times the parish envelopes are our only source of revenue for the parish.

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. Please call 0818 222 024.

Remembering Our Dead

We pray for the souls Imelda Monaghan, Dublin, sister of Annette Farrell, Newport and Marie Kilroy (nee Spellman) wife of the late Joe Kilroy, Carrabawn and Chicago.

We extend sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased. May they 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 - Fri: Michael Cafferkey, Portmarnock and Trienbeg. (Months Mind on Monday 15th)

Please note Mass on Ash Wednesday at 10am

Weekend Mass Intentions

Saturday February 13th at 7pm:

Annie and Frank Mc Nea and deceased family members

Sunday February 14th at 10am:

Betty Gorman (Months Mind) and her husband Pat, Murrivagh. James Ryder, Kilbride and his parents James and Charlotte. Denis and Margaret Conway and deceased members of the Conway and Gibbons families Newport. Patrick and Ellen Carey, and the deceased members of the Carey and Fergus families, Keena. Peter and Helen Mc Nea, Carrowsallagh. James Canning, St Brendans and the deceased members of the Canning family. Pauline and Michael Sheridan, Newport and daughter in law Susan. Bridget and Peter Doherty, Cuilmore PO. and the deceased members of the Chambers and Doherty families.

Saturday February 20th at 7pm:

The People of the Parish

Sunday February 21st at 10am:

Martin and Bridget Murray Abbeyville and deceased members of the Murray and Doherty families. Michael Masterson (Frank) Mulranny. John Joe Chambers, Upper Skirdagh.