

*Bicentenary*

*of*

*St. Brendan's Church*

*Tiernaur*

*1810 - 2010*





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# *Congratulations and best wishes to the people of Tiernaur*

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people and families of this area on the occasion of the Bicentenary of St. Brendan's Church, Tiernaur. It is a momentous occasion for each of you, as well as all the people of Burrishoole parish who are celebrating with you.

Two hundred years from 1810 to 2010 encapsulates a tremendous amount of time celebrating the sacraments within the walls of Tiernaur Church. From laughter to tears it has witnessed every emotion possible.

The faith caught and taught within these walls, from pulpit to pew, resonated through the people of this area for the last two hundred years.

From the church's humble beginning to its present day standard is totally down to the generosity of you, the local people, who support it week in and week out. In my fifteen years as a priest it is the first bicentenary celebration I have witnessed in the parishes I have been placed in since my Ordination.

Today I remember and give thanks to God for the faith of the people of this area, as well as remembering the priests who have served here since its foundation back in 1810.

Today I am honoured as your Parish Priest to welcome each and everyone who is here to celebrate this Mass of Thanksgiving as we give thanks to God for the last 200 years.

I extend a welcome to the priests and religious who join us for this Mass, some of whom served here in this parish in the past, along with other priests and religious who are here with us from the Westport Deanery.

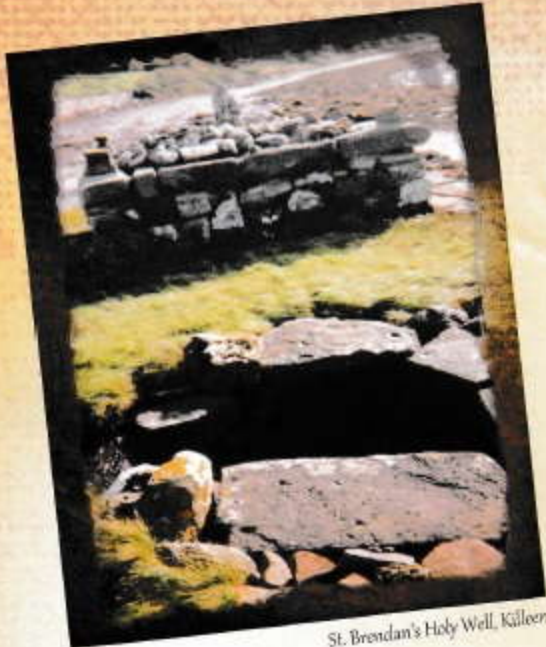
Finally, I extend a warm welcome to Archbishop Michael Neary who joins us as a community and as a parish of Burrishoole to celebrate this great occasion together. We offer this Mass for everyone who is present here this day, for members of your families away from home who cannot be here, for those who are sick at home or in hospital or in nursing homes and we remember in a special way all the deceased members of your families. May each of us give thanks to St. Brendan, after whom this church is named, for the faith he brought to this area and may each of us play our part to ensure it remains for many centuries to come.

May God bless each of you and may he enrich your lives by his loving presence and may we together celebrate our faith and our friendship.

God bless you always.

FR. DECLAN CARROLL, P.P.





St. Brendan's Holy Well, Killeen

## History of St. Brendan

The Church at Tiernaur is named after St. Brendan of Clonfert who died in 577 AD. Brendan devoted himself to the conversion of his own race, the Fir Bolg, and he spent a considerable time around this part of the West of Ireland. In Roskeen, just a few miles from Tiernaur Church, Brendan built a church and also founded a monastery in the same area. Here to this present day lies a Holy Well, adjacent to Killeen cemetery on the seashore, dedicated to St. Brendan. Every year on the 16th May a 'Pattern Day' is held in Killeen in his memory.

There is a story told of Brendan interceding to God on behalf of his people. A plague of some kind was devastating the country and the people were terrified. They cried out to Brendan to save them. He heard their cry of anguish and, kneeling down in his monastery at Killeen, he prayed for the safety of his people. God granted his request and the plague did not cross the boundaries of Tiernaur.

# Tiernaurl Church 1810 – 2010

———— History provided by Neil O'Donnell ————

John McLoughlin was a landlord in the Gibbings Estate who built the church in 1810. These lands are geographically situated in Tiernaurl. John McLoughlin was leasing this estate from a much bigger landlord who was resident in Newport House – namely Neil O'Donnell (who has no descendants in Tiernaurl). He owned a vast estate which ran from Kilmecna to Achill. He leased out small sections of his estate to smaller landlords who, in turn, rented these lands to the local tenants.

John McLoughlin was a Catholic and it was symbolic for landlords to build a church on their estates at this time, whatever their religion. Indeed, McLoughlin was far from being the stereotype Protestant landlord which prevailed in Ireland at this time.

In 1798 he had left Newport with fifty men to go to the assistance of the French General Humbert and his army who had landed in Killala to fight for Irish freedom. Horses were acquired along the way and folklore has it that the priest's horse in Newport was also "borrowed".

The failed rebellion and the subsequent arrest of the rebels should have led to John McLoughlin's execution. After being imprisoned for a short time he returned to live in his estate house in Tiernaurl. The ruins of this house can be seen to this day on land farmed into this century by Brigial and Ned Molloy, both brother and sister are now deceased.

Given that this was a small estate McLoughlin turned his sights to importing and smuggling to raise income. This is how Lighthouse Hill got its name as it was used by the famous sea captain, Mairtin O' Maille, as a signal point when to land his goods. A fire would be ablaze if he should not land his cargo. The boat 'Sloop Vaughan', a 27 ton vessel, carried supplies of wine, silk, tobacco and other goods.

Prior to the building of Tiernaurl Church in 1810 Catholics used the church at Killeen. This was situated northwest of Killeen Cemetery on lands now owned by John Moran. The water font in the front porch of Tiernaurl Church came from there.

The stone for the church came from local quarries and the roof was slated. No church on the northern shores of Clew Bay west of this point was slated at this time. The floor of the church was partly flagged and partly dobe. Dobe, which is a heavy clay, went hard when dry.

It was traditional at this time for each family to bring twenty sheaves of oats or one shilling as a donation to feed the priest's horse. The thrashing of this corn took place in the church, and was witnessed by Pat Moran who has descendants living in the area.

Seating was sparse at this stage and only those who could afford to pay into the gallery could be guaranteed a seat during Mass. A husband and wife donated the seating to the church early in the last century. The seats were delivered by train to Mulranny train station and were transported by horse and cart for the last few miles.



In the early 1800s it was not common to bring corpses to the church but to have a wake in their house for two nights and to bring the remains to Killeen for burial. Here a local person would say the Rosary before the grave was closed.

It is not clear the numbers of people who died during the famine but a lot must have emigrated. The tidal nature of Clew Bay would have provided a supply of shellfish to the locals.

Once an over-zealous priest chased his flock from the strands on the Sabbath. They were picking cockles on the spring tide in April. The strand also provided a race venue for the young men to race horses at the hour of Mass. Because Mulranny Church did not open till 1905 some Massgoers travelled from Doughbeg and Mulranny on horse back to attend Mass up until this time. While they proved the local lads raced their horses, but returning them in time before Mass ended!

On 29th June, 1869, a gun was stolen from the sidecar of Fr. Vaughan who was saying Mass in Tiernaur. Later on in the same year, on the 29th of August, James Hunter, landlord on the estate, was shot dead at the top of the Pound Road. He was shot because he had tried to prevent the local young men from cutting turf.

Hunter, who was leasing the estate, had been promised a rebate of ten pounds if he allowed turf cutting, but this was not honoured. His actions sealed his fate.

The bell for Tiernaur Church was donated by Canon Greeley. It was not properly erected until the 1950s. The marble altar was donated by Martin Carey, shopkeeper and wholesaler from Newport. It was given in recognition of the support of the locals to his business.

English would have been the number one language from the 1880s, especially with the building of two national schools in Rosgalive and Knockdoughra.

Contributions to the priests were read out from the pulpit up until the early 1950s and missionary priests would also have used the pulpit to put the fear of God into their flock.

Sisk Construction Company built the wings in the church in 1919

with timber being used from the old church in Newport in the roof structure. Confessions for men, women and children were held on separate Saturday evenings up until the 1950s with Communion only being taken by each group on the following day's Sunday Mass.

Mass in Latin continued until 1961 which often meant that older Mass servers were 'requested' to stay on as they knew the responses. Early retirement was not always an option!



In 1904 Fr. Eoin Gallagher from Pennsylvania donated a bursary of \$20,000 to the Diocese of Tuam to educate people in the name of 'Gallagher' in the Achill and Burnisshoole areas. He also donated the Stations of the Cross to Tiernaur Church.



The above photograph, taken in 1969, shows part of the original house where John McLoughlin lived. It is said that the stone from this house was used to build the wings onto Tiernaur Church in 1920. Stone from the building was used by Mayo County Council for roadmaking at Rosgulte in the 1960's. Now in 2010 more of the same stone was used to build the walls around Tiernaur Church, along with the new bell tower.

- Fr. Declan, take this opportunity to thank Mary and Pat Cannon for donating the stone as they are now the owners of Newfield House after the late Bridget Mellow (R.I.P.)

Many thanks to all the people who sponsored windows and church benches and the building of the bell tower. I appreciate the great financial assistance the people of the Tiernaur area have given as we prepared St. Brendan's Church for our Bicentenary Celebrations. May God reward you for your generosity.

# Mass of Thanksgiving

on the occasion of the Bicentenary of  
St. Brendan's Church, Tiernaur

22nd October, 2010

1810 — 2010

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Celebrant : Fr. Declan Carroll, P.P.

Presiding and Preaching : Archbishop Michael Neary

Concelebrating Priests.

Music : The Ginnelly Sisters    Choir : Burrishoole Parishioners

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## **Entrance Hymn: Walk in the Light**

Let's all join together in Communion sweet,  
walk, walk in the light  
And love one another till our Saviour we meet,  
Walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light (3) Walk in the light of the Lord

The spirit lives to set men free,  
Walk, walk in the light  
He bonds us all in unity, walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light (3) Walk in the light of the Lord

When Jesus died on Calvary, walk, walk in the light  
He saved the last like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light (3) Walk in the light of the Lord

And Jesus did just what he said,  
walk, walk in the light  
He healed the sick and he raised the dead,  
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light (3) Walk in the light of the Lord

He left his spirit our friend to be,  
walk, walk in the light  
He prays in you and he prays in me,  
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light (3) Walk in the light of the Lord

## **Introduction and Welcome: Pat Cannon.**

### **Opening Prayer:**

God and Father of all gifts, we praise the source of all we have and are. Teach us to acknowledge always the many good things your infinite love has given us. Through the intercession of St. Brendan help us to love you with all our heart and with all our strength as together we celebrate the 200th anniversary of this church.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.  
Amen.



## First Reading: Dylan O'Neill

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Let me sing the praises of the Lord's goodness, and of his marvellous deeds, in return for all that he has done for us and for the great kindness he has shown us in his mercy and in his boundless goodness.

He said: 'Truly they are my people, sons and no rogues'. He proved himself their saviour in all their troubles.

It was neither messenger nor angel but his presence that saved them. In his love and pity he redeemed them himself, he lifted them up, carried them throughout the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord.

## Psalm: Sung.

Refrain: I will give you living water,

no more shall I thirst,

I will give you living water, springing up within you.

## Second Reading: Rita McDermott.

*A reading from the*

*Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians:*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you, now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other and advise each other in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God, and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation: Sung.

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more because a servant does not know his master's business. I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you, and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## Homily: Archbishop Michael Neary.

## Creed.

## Prayers of the Faithful.

## Offertory commentary: Roger Hughes.

Ag Críost an síol

Ag Críost an síol, Ag Críost an fímhár

In lothlainn Dé go dtuagar sóin.

Ag Críost an mháir, Ag Críost an t-iaic,

I líonta Dé go gceastar sinn.

O bhás go hais, is é aic go bás

Do aha láimh, a Críost, anall tharainn.

O bhás go críoch, ní críoch ach aibhás.

I bParthas na nGráist go rabhaimid.

## **Offertory Procession.**

### **Prayer over the Gifts:**

Lord we offer you this sacrifice of praise for all you have given us. May we always use the many gifts you have given us and through the intercession of St. Brendan bless all the people of this parish so that we may bring glory to your name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Preface.**

Is Naofa Naofa thu: Sung.

### **Eucharistic Prayer.**

An nAithair: Sung

Amen: Sung

Sign of Peace: Tabhair dom do laimh.

Lamb of God.

### **Communion Hymns:**

#### **Lord of all hopefulness**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled  
at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment,  
whose presence is balm,

Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
at the end of the day.

### **Communion Reflection : Roisín Cooney**

#### **Word of Thanks: Pat Cannon.**

#### **Final Prayer:**

God our Father, in this spiritual food you have given back to us the sacrifice we offered you in thanksgiving, the saving sacrament of Christ, your Son. Watch over and protect the people gathered here tonight along with all the families and people of this parish. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of St. Brendan's Church, Tiernaur, may we give thanks to God for the faith of the people of this area, and may it continue to nourish us and give us strength throughout our lives.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Final Hymn:**

#### **Faith of our Fathers**

Faith of our Fathers, living still  
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whene'er we hear that glorious Word!

Faith of our Fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death,  
We will be true to thee till death,

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark  
Were still in heart and conscience free  
How sweet would be their children's fate  
If they, like them, could die for thee.  
(Faith of our Fathers)



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