

Parish of Stranorlar
Church of Mary Immaculate

PRIESTS: Rev. Kieran McAteer, P.P. Tel. 9131135
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Live Streaming - churchservices.tv/stranorlar

12th Sunday of the Year - 20th June 2021

World Refugee Day

MASSES: Weekdays: Monday - Saturday 10am.
Saturday - 6pm (Vigil) Sunday - 9am & 11am.

All masses can be viewed on churchservices.tv/stranorlar

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 12 - 1pm & 5.15pm - 5.45pm

ADORATION: Thursday from 10.30am - 7.30pm.

BAPTISMS: Every Sunday & 1st Saturday of Month. To book contact the Parish Office on 9131135 on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays between 10am - 12.30pm.

1st Anniversary: The 9am Mass on Sunday 27th June will be offered for the repose of the soul of Maureen Duffy, Ard McCarron.

Envelope Boxes: If you did not receive a box and would like one, please call to the sacristy after any of the Masses.

Church Cleaning: We would like to thank all those who have been cleaning the church. If anyone would like to give a little of your time to help with the cleaning and sanitising it would be much appreciated. Please give your name to any of the priests.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

The gospel is an invitation to faith; to believe in the presence of Christ even when he seems far away. This is part of the darkness of our relationship with God; faith in him is the dawn that follows darkness.

At times we may feel that our church is not as vibrant as it was in the past. Today the apostles feared that they would be overwhelmed by the storm. Like us, they wondered when would Jesus come to their aid.

The multiple challenges we face as a church; lack of faith in Jesus, the shortage of priests and religious, lack of respect for God's creation and the effects of Covid may all weaken our faith today. There can be a harking back to what seems now to have been better times. We look for hope, needing hope. Our hope is in Christ, even as he was sleeping on the boat. No matter what the fear, the apostles seemed to know he would care as they said, 'Master we are going down'.

Their faith was both challenged and rewarded. Jesus is letting them know in the crises of their lives and of the persecution of the Church at the time, that he can help them overcome fear. The storm at the sea was the storm of persecution. The way forward was to trust in him. It is the same for us; the future of the Church is in our closeness and faith in Jesus. We are the Church; our faith is its strength. As Jesus found hope in his life so can we.

Reflection - Faith tested

My faith is tested many times every day,
and more times than I'd like to confess.
I'm unable to keep the banner of faith aloft.
If a promise is not kept or a secret is betrayed,
or if I experience long-lasting pain,
I begin to doubt God and God's love.
I fall into the chasm of disbelief and I cry out in despair.
But then the spirit lifts me up again,
and once more I am secured in faith.
I don't know how that happens,
save when I cry out earnestly I am answered immediately
and am returned to faithfulness.
I am once again filled with spirit
and firmly planted on solid ground.