

# *Parish of Stranorlar*

## *Church of Mary Immaculate*

**PRIESTS:** Rev. Kieran McAteer, P.P. Tel. 9131135  
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Live Streaming - [churchservices.tv/stranorlar](http://churchservices.tv/stranorlar)  
Facebook - St Mary's RC Parish Stranorlar

### *7th Sunday of the Year - 20th February 2022*

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

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

**ADORATION:** Thursday - 10.30am - 7.30pm

**BAPTISMS:** Every Sunday - 12 noon & 1st Saturday of every month.  
To book contact the Parish Office on 9131135 on Mondays, Tuesdays  
or Fridays between 10am - 12.30pm. (Please give two weeks notice)

**Recent Deaths:** We offer sympathy to the families, relatives and friends  
of Maureen Temple, Tyrallen and Ken McDermott, Curraghmore who  
died during the week. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful  
departed rest in peace.

**Mary's Meals:** Mary's Meals, are launching a new fundraising campaign  
for the months of February and March. "Move for Meals" encourages sup-  
porters to set themselves a challenge and get active, while raising funds for  
children living in poverty. While just €18.30 feeds a child for an entire  
school year, every fundraising effort, no matter how big or small will have  
a huge impact. So, would you or your family organise a sponsored walk?  
Are you part of a fitness club that needs some new year's motiva-  
tion? Would your colleagues be interested in a team building day, such as  
going on a hike and raising funds in the process?

Just visit [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) to see how you can get involved or call  
Trish on 086 3140814

**Volunteer Fair – Killybegs Campus, LYIT:** Monday 28th February from  
10am – 12.30pm. This event is open to all and will help you get involved in  
meeting new people, learning new skills and helping your community. The  
event will have information on local groups and volunteer roles that are avail-  
able as we all get back to being an active community after the lockdowns.  
There are opportunities to suit everyone that vary from an hour a month to a  
day per week. If you would like to have your group involved contact Fr  
Liam Boyle or at [chaplaincy@lyit.ie](mailto:chaplaincy@lyit.ie).

**Ballybofey & Stranorlar Woman's Group:** B. & S. Women's Group meet  
on the 1st Monday of the month in St Mary's Parish Centre at 7.30pm. New  
members always welcome. Annual membership fee €15.00 per person.

### **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

*Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.*

It is natural to stand up to people and 'get even' with them. The message  
of the gospels runs differently. We must learn to be as compassionate and  
forgiving as God our Father is when we turn to Him for forgiveness.

Compassion is, to my mind at least, not one of those skills that can be learned.  
I often think that compassion is quite impossible to explain but rather is an  
intuitive awareness of the gift that offering a compassionate experience is.  
While a key element of my health care pastoral ministry toolbox, it is some-  
thing that is intrinsic in the person who strives to offer an experience of com-  
passion in an authentic way. It is not learned or forced. Compassionate care  
is an experience to be shared and is known often without the use of words or  
platitudes but rather through the awareness that someone cares for me right  
now as I struggle to make sense of it all. Indeed, having recently taught a  
workshop on compassionate care, I came to the conclusion that compassion is  
one of the most important things we can offer to anyone pained and strug-  
gling, while also being one of the most challenging. It is so hard sometimes  
to be compassionate even when we want to be.

The liberation theology movement has I believe compassion at its heart. It  
reminds us of our call to be compassionate, to be present to the struggle of the  
'other'. It reminds us of God's 'preferential option for the poor' - the poor in  
mind, body and spirit and how each of us are challenged and called to be  
agents of this preferential treatment. It reminds us to walk that road that can  
at times be less travelled and offer the hand of God to those we would rather  
walk away from.

*Margaret Naughton, Compassion and Ministry, Sacred Heart Messenger.*