Parish of Stranorlar Church of Mary Immaculate

PRIESTS:Rev. Kieran McAteer, P.P.
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8th Sunday of the Year - 27th February 2022

MASSES: Saturday - 6pm (Vigil) Sunday - 9am & 11am Weekdays - Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 10am. Wednesday & Friday 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm. Thursday 7.30am & 10am

CONFESSIONS: Thursday 7pm -7.30pm 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)

Month's Mind: The 10am Mass on Thursday 3rd March will be offered for the repose of the soul of Billy Henderson, Chapel Close, Stranorlar.

1st Anniversaries: The 6pm Mass on Saturday 5th March will be offered for the repose of the soul of Barney Duffy, Millbrae, Stranorlar.

The 6pm Mass on Saturday 5th March will also be offered for the repose of the soul of Maura Milligan, Dunwiley, Stranorlar.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday 2nd March is Ash Wednesday and a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses. Please note that the early Mass will be at 7.30am in order to give more people the opportunity to come to Mass for Lent.

Rosary during Lent: The Legion of Mary will recite the Rosary and Legion Prayers during Lent in the old parish centre every Wednesday at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Trocaire Boxes: Lenten Trocaire Boxes are available in the porches.

Temperance Sunday: The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is designated as 'Temperance Sunday' when we honour the grace of Temperance, especially as related to the abuse of intoxicating drink. The Raphoe Diocesan Pioneer Council is again this year in keeping with the aim of the Association organising 'the Promotion of Sobriety and Temperance' where a person makes a private pledge to abstain from alcohol during Lent and say a special prayer.

What are you doing for Lent? This year why not travel with Jesus as he enters into his passion? 'No Greater Love' is a Lenten programme, based on a series of short films shot on location in the Holy Land. Over five weeks we are given the opportunity to walk step-by-step with Jesus through the scriptures from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. The short films are presented by Edward Sri who leads us on a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. At each session there will be the opportunity to pray and talk together as members of our Parish Family in St. Mary's Parish Centre commencing on Thursday 8th March from 8pm - 9.30pm. There are 5 sessions – one for each week of Lent before we enter into Holy Week. We started this Lenten programme in 2020 but we could not continue with it because of the Covit lockdown.

Ministers of the Word for March: Saturday 6pm - Vigil - Michael Scanlan. Sunday 9am - Gabrielle Osbourne. Sunday 11am - Claire Donnelly

Ministers of the Eucharist for March: Saturday 6pm - Ann Hogan. Sunday 9am - Martin Bonnar. Sunday 11am – John Patton.

Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time:

What do we have to show for all the love God has shown us? Are our words full of bitterness or sweetness?

How should I pray? How do I know if I'm praying right? There are many ways of prayer, like the Rosary, stations, mass, and meditation.

We 'judge' our prayer on what is our life like? Is prayer helping me be a good person? Is it producing 'good fruit' as Jesus hints today? Am I increasing the store of goodness in my heart?

How do we nourish the source of goodness? We meet with people who build us up. We pray from the heart. Not just rote prayers but letting myself be myself with Jesus and God. We can enjoy art, music, and good conversation.

Ask what event yesterday might have nourished goodness in the heart? Did you play with a child or grandchild? Did you feel it did someone good to meet you? Have a good laugh with someone, or a good cry? Did you look after your body with nourishing food? Did you care for the earth and give thanks for creation? The grace of God nourishing our goodness comes in many and varied ways. (Donal Neary SJ, Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)