

Parish of Stranorlar

Church of Mary Immaculate

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

1st Sunday of Lent - 6th March 2022

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

1st Anniversaries: The 9am Mass this Sunday 6th March will be offered
for the repose of the soul of Pat Temple, Dumwiley

Holy Hour: This Sunday from 7pm - 8pm in the church. This week
there will be special prayers for the people of Ukraine and we invite as
many as possible to come along.

Visitation of the Sick: Tuesday - Ballybofey Town & Country
Wednesday - Stranorlar Town & Country

Choir Practice: Friday 11th March at 8pm in the church in preparation
for St Patrick's Day. All welcome.

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.

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 10th 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 Covid lockdown.

First Sunday of Lent: Although we are strongly drawn to follow Jesus, we will experience strong conflicts and temptation to follow "other gospels". If we stay with Jesus in prayer and friendship we can overcome such conflicts

It may be true to say that life at times is like being in the wilderness. Covid-19 and its effects have made our lives uncertain and fearful. For Jesus the wilderness was a place apart, lonely, dangerous, it was also a place to find God and his mission in life. It's something like that. Our wilderness now – is a place we are driven to, just as Jesus was by the spirit. However, we have been driven to our wilderness by restrictions, by changes in our life, by fear, frustration, boredom. But maybe we can see that there are also good things in this wilderness.

The wilderness was a place of joy for Jesus: The Angels looked after him. It's hard in the middle of covid and its effects. It's the same in other 'wilderness experiences' like the loss of love, of home, of a job, of money. We wonder will things ever change. And it can be hard to find the joy in bad times. It can be - but not always - found in deeper love, in care and in allowing ourselves to be cared for, in a renewal of faith in God. We should ask ourselves - what is my wilderness at the moment? What do I find joy in? In his time, the wilderness engaged Jesus and he grew there in love and mission. Donal Neary SJ (Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)

Seed Community Employment Project:

Current Vacancies in Ballybofey Area.
3 General Workers, 1 General Maintenance Worker, 1 Administration / Clerical Position. No experience necessary. Free Training provided in Sports Surface Maintenance, Horticulture Administration /Clerical.

Contact Shane on 085 8631853