

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 16th October 2022

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

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 Fridays between 10am – 12.30pm. (Please give two weeks notice) The Baptism Teams are available to visit families again.

Months Mind: The 7.30pm Mass on Friday 21st October will be offered for the repose of the soul of Bernie Doherty, Ard Mc Cool, Stranorlar

Parish Copper Hunt: Our annual copper hunt will take place next Sunday, 23rd October - Mission Sunday. Please bring along any jars of coppers or small change you have accumulated over the past year. A bin will be placed at the front and back of the church into which you can place your coins. This is our annual fundraiser for our Third World Projects and we thank you sincerely for your continued support.

Choir Practices for October: Choir practices will be held on Friday 28th at 8pm in the Church. All welcome. Choir at 11am each Sunday morning.

Table Quiz: In aid of the Renal Unit Letterkenny University Hospital will take place in the B & S Golf Club on Wednesday 19th October at 9.30pm sharp. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Confirmation 2023: Bishop Alan McGuckian will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the children of the parish on Saturday 6th May.

First Holy Communion 2022: The 2nd class children from St. Mary's N.S. will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 13th May at 11am
The 2nd class children from Dooish N.S, Robertson N.S. and Welchtown N.S. will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 20th May at 11am.

Parish Draw: Our annual parish draw will take place on Sunday 13th November. Online entry can be found on St Mary's RC Parish Stranorlar Facebook Page or via <https://www.idonate.ie/raffle/StMarysChristmasParishDraw> Envelopes are also available in Andies, Stranorlar & Alexanders, Ballybofey and in the church porches. You can return your money in the completed envelope to Fr Kieran, Fr Anthony or the church collection box. The draw has been very well supported over the years and we hope that it will be a success this year also.

Rainbows Ireland Letterkenny: Applications for the Rainbows programme are now open for the 2022/23 year. Rainbows is a 9-week support programme for children aged 7-12 years old (1st - 6th class) who have been affected by bereavement or separation in the family. To reserve a place and receive an application form please contact the Pastoral Centre: 074 9121853 or email pastoralcentre@raphoediocese.ie. For more information on the Rainbows Ireland programme visit www.rainbowsireland.ie

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 16th October

There is no point in pretending before God: he sees us exactly as we are. If we place ourselves honestly and humbly in his presence then our prayer will be heard. We recognize the widow in this story. We see her in movies and books and in real life – the lone crusader taking on the establishment, fighting for her rights and eventually, through grit and persistence, winning her case. It is a parable about persistence in prayer but also persistence in action. When we work for the homeless, we are working for people's rights, as in education, health care, employment and freedom of movement and freedom of religion, freedom from slavery and torture, the right to life at all ages of life, among others. The church promotes these rights and links with movements for such rights. Feeding the hungry is not an act of charity, it is an act of justice. The judge was meant to be the defender of the widow in his culture. Somehow, he had become more concerned with saving his own skin and reputation than with his integrity. Over time the widow wears him down. She does not lose heart – she keeps the faith, and, in this, we must follow her example. Both in our thoughts and in our actions. The delay in helping touched God also, and his wish for justice, then as now, is compromised by human injustice. Maybe this is more a parable about injustice than of prayer. But it is also an encouragement to pray: 'our power is prayer and the prayer of the humble is God's weakness. The Lord is weak only in this: he is weak in the face of the prayer of his people' (Pope Francis, November 2013). Lord may your kingdom come, near and far away.