

Parish of Stranorlar

Church of Mary Immaculate

PRIESTS: Rev. Kieran McAteer, P.P. Tel. 9131135
Rev. Anthony Briody, C.C. Tel 9131157
St. Mary's Parish Centre Tel 9175853
St. Vincent de Paul Tel 087 9955351
Parish Website - www.stranorlarparish.ie
Email - stranorlarparish@gmail.com
Live Streaming - churchservices.tv/stranorlar
Facebook - St Mary's RC Parish Stranorlar

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 22nd January 2023

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

Recent Deaths: We offer our sincere sympathy to the families, relatives and friends of Margaret Deeny, 89 Ard Mc Cool, who's funeral took place last Sunday, Annie Patton, Castlebane, who's funeral took place on Thursday, Annie Kelly, 3 St. Vincent's Close, who's funeral took place on Friday and Ronan Roddy, Trenamullin, who's funeral took place on Saturday. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Ballybofey Stranorlar & District Historical Society: The first meeting of 2023 will take place on Monday 23rd January at 7.30pm in the Henderson Hall. A talk will be given on the Doherty Fiddlers. Everyone welcome.

Community Engagement Meeting: The Garda are holding a community engagement meeting on Wednesday 25th of January at the Finn Valley Centre from 10am to 12pm. The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Pilgrimage to Fatima: Special Donegal Pilgrimage to Fatima last remaining places 9th to 14th June from Dublin for Feast Day of Saint Anthony Patron Saint of Portugal visit Saint Anthony's birthplace and baptismal font in Lisbon contact James Treacy 061921470

Rescheduled Variety Concert for World Mental Health day: Thursday 26th January at 8pm in An Grianan theatre. Tickets only €5 and all proceeds go to support Donegal Wellness Cafes network. Tickets can be booked through the theatre on 074 9120777 or on line - <https://angrianan.com/>

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 22nd January 2023

Sunday of the Word of God. Catholic Schools Week begins The gospel and the life of Jesus makes true the words: 'The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light'. Christian life is a calling that this may continue to happen in every age, every place and in every society In today's Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry with the first of many 'gatherings'. Matthew interprets Jesus' arrival in Galilee as fulfilment of the prophet Isaiah's declaration that a 'great light' would shine in the darkness. The reference to 'Galilee of the Gentiles' offers a clue as to who will be gathered and included in Jesus' mission. Fishing metaphors feature heavily throughout Matthew's Gospel. Jesus starts his ministry in the fishing village of Capernaum by gathering a crew of disciples – two sets of brothers, all fishermen. In terms of social status, fishermen were low down in the pecking order. Their occupation was precarious at best, leaving them economically vulnerable, and they had to pay taxes to the Roman Empire, which made them unpopular. They might seem an unlikely choice for a Messiah starting his mission. Simon (Peter) and Andrew are casting their net out when Jesus calls them, quipping 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Similarly, James and John abandon their net-mending 'immediately' to follow him. They are 'all in'. The mission has momentum; these fisherfolk are needed as the sea is ripe for fishing. Their task will be to draw others in, and the net will be cast indiscriminately, far and wide. Later, Jesus will compare the kingdom of heaven to a 'dragnet', catching fish of every kind (Mt 13:47). When we join together for liturgy, we often begin by acknowledging our 'gathering', indicating that we are being called out of our ordinary, everyday lives to gather as community, aware of God's presence among us. We are also called every day into God's service, invited to repentance, a change of heart. Like the disciples, we are called, and we call; we are gathered, and we gather. When we are drawn in by Jesus, we extend the same open welcome to others. The kingdom is at hand, and Jesus' net gathers indiscriminately, regardless of social or economic status. This week, we might reflect on how we gather as community and how we welcome others.