

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

Baptism of the Lord 8th January 2023

MASSSES: 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.

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

1st Anniversary: The 10am mass on Wednesday 11th January will be offered for the repose of the soul of Seamus Lafferty, Barley Hill, Stranorlar. The 6pm mass on Saturday 14th January will be offered for the repose of the soul of Margaret Lafferty, Main Street, Stranorlar.

Baptism Service: Will take place this Sunday 8th January 2023 at 3pm in the church for all the children who were baptised in this church during 2022. Everyone welcome.

Sunday Envelope: The Sunday Collection Envelopes for 2023 have now been distributed. If you did not receive a box and would like one, please call to the sacristy after any of the Masses.

Reflection -

Baptism

*Baptism was not over and done with
the day we were taken to the font.
We are baptised by all that happens to us in life.
We are baptised by hardship; in its turbulent waters
we are purified by all that is false and useless.
We are baptised by suffering; in its murky waters
we grow in humility and compassion.
We are baptised by joy; in its gurgling waters
we experience the goodness of life.
We are baptised by love: in its singing waters
we blossom like flowers in the sun.
Baptism is like the planting of a seed.
It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen.*

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 8th January 2023

This is the feast of Jesus receiving from his Father the calling and mission which he followed through in his life, death and resurrection. We too are baptised into a similar relationship with God in Christ. Nowadays we see baptism as welcoming a new person or infant into the Christian community. There was no Christian community for Jesus to be welcomed into when he was baptised by John in the river Jordan. By his baptism Jesus identified with all who were in need of God's special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as foretold by the ancient prophets. The opening of the heavens, the voice, and the Spirit all confirmed that Jesus was God's presence in the world. He would treat people as if they were his Father in heaven. His presence offered hope and healing to all who felt overwhelmed and overburdened. "Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened...." Matthew 11: 28. We who have been baptised by water and the Holy Spirit have become other Christs. We are God's presence in the world. Christ lives in us - Galatians 2: 20. "Christ has no body now on earth but yours – no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks out his compassion on the world. Yours are the feet with which he goes about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses...." - Teresa of Avila. Let's not underestimate the power we have to offer hope and help to others when they are down - a listening ear, a kind word, a welcome mat, a bit of humour.... Maybe we could go another step and offer the questioner a good reason for the faith we practise and the hope we have – 1 Peter 3:15