

Parish of Stranorlar

Church of Mary Immaculate

PRIESTS: Rev. Kieran McAteer, P.P. Tel. 9131135 or 087 3496172
Rev. Vincent Finnegan, C.C. Tel 9131157 or 087 7031366
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

4th Sunday of Lent ~ 10th March 2024

MASSSES: Saturday - 6pm (Vigil) Sunday - 9am & 11am
Weekdays Monday ~ Friday 7.30am 10am. Saturday 10am.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 12pm - 1pm & 5.15pm - 5.45pm.

ADORATION: Thursday 10.30am - 10.00pm.

BAPTISMS: Every Sunday - 12 noon & 1st Saturday of every month.
To book contact the Parish Office on 9131135 on Fridays between 10am & 12.30pm or by email stranorlarparish@gmail.com.

****Please give two weeks notice****

1st Anniversary: The 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 16th March will be offered for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Bannigan, Woodlawn, Stranorlar. The 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 16th March will be offered for the repose of the soul of Brian Mc Dermott, Admiran, Stranorlar.

National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock: will take place on Sunday 14th April. For more information see the poster in the porch or contact Kathleen on 087 6579222.

Cursillo: Lenten Retreat in Ards Friary Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th March. This retreat is for members of Cursillo and runs from 7pm on Friday to after lunch on Sunday. The Liturgies will be led by Fr. Laurence Kettle, Spiritual Director. To book a place please contact Pat Slattery on 087 9374001. Cost €160.

Alzheimer Café: takes place during Social Inclusion week on Wednesday 20th March from 11.30am to 1pm with guest speaker Garda Brenda Healy.

PPC Meeting: There will be a Parish Pastoral Council meeting on Thursday 14th at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre.

The Fourth Lenten Sycamore Course: will take place this Thursday, 14th of March in the Parish Centre at 8pm. The title of this course will be The Holy Eucharist. The Sycamore course helps to deepen your understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith. Everyone is welcome and each session involves a short film with time for discussion and a warm cup of tea/coffee is also included.

Dooish N.S. School Admissions for School Year 2024 / 2025: Closing Date for receipt of Application Forms for Admission is 11th March 2024. For more information please contact the school by emailing dooish@hotmail.com, by phoning 0749131471 or by writing to: Dooish N.S., Ballybofey, Co. Donegal. F93N768.

Diocese of Raphoe Irish Synodal Pathway Team: After recent gatherings of each diocese throughout Ireland, the National Irish Synodal Pathway team has requested that each diocese facilitate another round of discussions based on the '*Conversations in the Spirit*'. The final session in the Diocese of Raphoe is on Wednesday 13th March - Ards Friary 7pm to 9pm.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT *(Laetare Sunday)*

Jesus offers a message of hope and salvation to the whole world.

A Christian should never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! We traditionally think of Lent as a time of penance, fasting and prayer and can't wait for it to end. We rarely see it as a time of joy. But Lent is based on our belief that we live, every moment of our lives, in the knowledge that we are loved, infinitely and unconditionally, by God. Gratitude is the only foundation on which we can build an authentic relationship with God. And so, like Jesus, who spent forty days in the desert, discerning God's will for him and rejecting the temptations which would divert him from doing God's will, we too, in gratitude for being loved by God, reflect during Lent on God's will for us. Like Jesus, we are all surrounded by many temptations, which can, subtly and unsuspectingly, divert us from doing God's will. "Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades." (The Joy of the Gospel, Ch 1 v 2). Laetare (meaning: rejoice) Sunday is a reminder that our penance, fasting and prayer, in the search for God's will, is always a time of rejoicing, as we allow the Spirit to challenge us and lead us to a closer relationship with God.