

# *Parish of Stranorlar*

## *Church of Mary Immaculate*

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Facebook - St Mary's RC Parish Stranorlar

### **6th Sunday of the Year - 13th February 2022**

**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 Mondays, Tuesdays  
or Fridays between 10am - 12.30pm. (Please give two weeks notice)

**1st Anniversary:** The 6pm Mass on Saturday 19th February will be  
offered for the repose of the soul of John McGonagle, Trusk Rd.

**Months Mind:** The 6pm Mass on Saturday 19th February will also be  
offered for the repose of the soul of Patsy Devlin, Glenfin Rd.

**Mary's Meals:** Mary's Meals, are launching a new fundraising campaign  
for the months of February and March. "Move for Meals" encourages sup-  
porters to set themselves a challenge and get active, while raising funds for  
children living in poverty. While just €18.30 feeds a child for an entire  
school year, every fundraising effort, no matter how big or small will have  
a huge impact. So, would you or your family organise a sponsored walk?  
Are you part of a fitness club that needs some new year's motiva-  
tion? Would your colleagues be interested in a team building day, such as  
going on a hike and raising funds in the process? Just vis-  
it [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) to see how you can get involved or call Trish on  
086 3140814

### **Letter from Bishop Alan McGuckian:**

On the fringes of our annual retreat in Knock the Irish Bishops dis-  
cussed the implications of the lifting of most of the restrictions sur-  
rounding the Covid- 19 pandemic, north and south, and gave some con-  
sideration to the next steps with regard to the various restrictions that  
were put in place from June 2020 for the Catholic Church in Ireland.

I therefore write to advise the following:

I recommend that, if you haven't already done so, you meet with your  
Covid-19 support team and/or Parish Pastoral Council to discuss the  
relaxation of social distancing guidelines inside Church buildings.  
Parishes may wish to take a gradual approach, conscious that the Omi-  
cron variant is still rampant in communities and that many members of  
our congregations are themselves vulnerable.

Parishes are asked to reflect seriously on what best suits their congrega-  
tion as a result of the lifting of restrictions. They should consider  
things like the resumption of roles for altar servers, choirs, concele-  
brants and others who exercise particular contributions to the liturgy.  
Also, you could consider a return to Anointing during the sacraments  
without cotton wool and plans for the careful distribution of the ashes  
on Ash Wednesday.

The Bishops Conference will meet in March to review the situation.  
Meanwhile the continuation of the following protective measures is  
recommended to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the vulnerable or  
anxious members of the congregation:

The wearing of face coverings inside Church buildings;  
Good sanitising and cleaning arrangements;  
Suspension of a handshake as the Sign of Peace;  
Holy Communion to be received in the hand;  
Not passing a basket for collections;  
Holy water to be used in asperges but not yet restored to fonts for com-  
munal use at the entrances to Church buildings.

I recognise that, due to pastoral considerations, in different parishes  
people have moved on in relation to some of the above. I strongly  
recommend that we keep in mind the care of the vulnerable and the  
anxious, while seeking to return to normal as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Bishop Alan McGuckian