

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

4th Sunday of Advent 18th December 2022

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

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

PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Sunday 18th December at 7.00pm

CONFESSIONS: **This Sunday 7pm - 8pm**
Monday - Wednesday 10.30am (after mass)
Thursday 12pm - 1pm & 6.30pm - 7.30pm

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 Death: We offer sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Paddy Mc Lean, Cois na Finn, Ballybofey who's funeral took place on Sunday last 11th December. May his souls and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

1st Anniversary: The 10am mass on Friday 23rd December will be offered for the repose of the soul of Mary Thompson, Ard Mc Cool,

Choir practices: Choir practices will be held on Wednesday 21st of December at 8pm to 9.30pm in the church. All welcome.

St. Vincent de Paul: The annual Christmas appeal collection will take place each weekend until Christmas. Your help would be very much appreciated. Any family requesting help please ring 087 9955351.

Christmas Mass Times:

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve) - 6pm & 10pm
Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day) - 9am & 11am.

Envelope Boxes 2023: The Sunday Collection Envelopes for 2023 are now ready. We ask the usual distributors again to go to the Parish Centre after any of the masses this weekend to collect the boxes for their area. We thank you for your help in the past and ask you once again to do the necessary.

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

Finn Valley Guild ICA: Are holding a quiz in the Ramblers Inn (Connie's Bar) on Wednesday 28th December @ 9pm. Entry €5 each, teams of 4/5 people. Proceeds going to the upkeep of the Defibrillator at Glenmore.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18th December 2022

The birth of Christ is almost upon us now. We are reminded in Isaiah's prophecy of the long-awaited Emmanuel – God in our midst. Like Joseph, we need to make room for Jesus to enter our lives and our world. Christmas is practically here and there is still so much to be done. That Christmas celebrates the most central tenet of our faith, God becoming a human being, calls us to pray, reflect and do something practical. The great doctors of the church tell us that the whole of creation waited with bated breath to see if Mary would agree to become the mother of the Saviour. Christmas celebrates God's gift to us of everything he has, his only Son, his whole family so to speak. Christmas celebrates Mary's generosity when she agreed to be the mother of the Saviour. In doing so she put in jeopardy her personal plans and ran the gauntlet of possible rejection by Joseph and being the butt of harsh and unforgiving village gossip. The season that's coming upon us is dripping with the spirit of generosity, God's generosity as well as Mary's and Joseph's. It's the season for us all to be generous to all. It's the season to be compassionate to those who are less fortunate, forgotten and in need of meaningful help. It's the season to reach out and help a neighbour carry their load. If we ourselves have more than enough to enjoy Christmas, it won't hurt to be generous and give some of it away to those who have less or nothing at all to cheer them up. Christmas is not just about me. It's about us all together, rich, and poor, givers and receivers – all helping one another to carry the burden of our life together. So, let's slow down these days and try sensing and feeling the pain of others. God so loved and felt for the world that he sent his only Son.