



Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Straide

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Masses

September 12th & 13th 2020

Saturday 12th	8.00 pm	Deceased of the Maloney and Ruane families	Tavna & Michael O'Malley
Sunday 13th	11.00 am	Jim & Mary Jennings	Blackfort
Monday 14th	10.00 am	People of the Parish Community	
Tuesday 15th	7.00 pm*	Private Intention	
Wednesday 16th	10.00 am	Private Intention	
Thursday 17th	10.00 am	Private Intention	
Friday 18th	10.00 am	Private Intention	
Saturday 19th	11.00 am	First Holy Communion (for the children and their families only)	
	8.00 pm	Private Intention	
Sunday 20th	11.00 am	People of the Parish Community	

We wish the very best of luck - to the children who will receive their First Holy Communion next Saturday.

Church Live Stream – is now operational. All Masses are available to be viewed live online - www.straideparish.com.

Ticket Only Admission - We remain confined to 50 max at both Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Thus, we continue to admit by ticket only. Tickets for either Mass can be picked up from the Church the previous weekend and during the week. Our ticket system will remain in place until restrictions are eased / lifted.

New Online "Offertory Collection" Donation Facility – You can now make your Offertory Donation simply, conveniently and securely online at our parish website – straideparish.com. Many thanks to those who have already started to avail of this new facility. The feedback has been very positive and very encouraging. Thank you for your ongoing generosity & support. This facility, like the web cam, has been introduced for the convenience of parishioners

Wearing face coverings / masks indoors – is now mandatory. For those who forget to bring a face covering, you can get one at the back of the Church (while stocks last). Please put the cost (€1) into the Offertory Box.

Grandparents Pilgrimage, Knock Shrine 2020 - The 2020 pilgrimage is on Sunday 13th of September at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock taking place virtually at 3pm at Knock Basilica. Please join us online - knockshrine.ie/watch

Conservation Fund Envelopes 2020 / 2021 – First and foremost a huge *Thank You* to all who support our weekly Offertory Collections. Your contributions make it possible to maintain, clean and sanitise our church in order to keep it open for daily Mass – albeit in a more restricted manner than heretofore. Thanks, also, to our incredibly hardworking team of fundraisers and to those who have supported their ventures over the past number of years.

It is great to hold First Communion and to see baptisms taking place once again and, hopefully, weddings from next Spring. As we all know, Covid 19 has had a profound effect on all communities. No one has remained unaffected. It has taken lives, reduced incomes or removed livelihoods altogether. Under such circumstances, any donations to Offertory Collections (no matter how small) are appreciated all the more, as there is now less money in circulation.

Due to the pandemic, our Offertory Collections (combined Green & Yellow Envelopes and Loose Cash) are down over 40% for the period Jan 1st – August 31st 2020 compared with the same period last year. If the fundraising which was conducted last year is also factored in, then the income for the first 8 months of this year is down by more than 60% compared with the same period last year.

Unfortunately, during the 15 weeks when no public Mass was celebrated, the overheads remained constant. Additional significant costs were also incurred in reopening our church in line with HSE and government guidelines. These costs are ongoing. The webcam for live streaming (greatly appreciated by those who could not be present for Masses and funerals etc.) was also an additional unforeseen cost – but one deemed necessary all the same.

Our Church Conservation debt remains at €50,000. It was hoped that this would be cleared by the end of 2020. That target is now unlikely to be met. With this in mind, the parish has no other option but to continue to rely on the generosity of parishioners and friends of the parish and to extend the Conservation Envelopes for another (hopefully final) year from Oct 4th. Please consider donating whatever you can afford, whenever you can, to this collection.

The envelopes are available from the back of the church and can be picked up after Masses or during the week. Like all parish donations, the Conservation Fund donations can also be made securely online at www.straideparish.com.

Once again, many thanks to all who support our church in any way – no matter by how much or by how little.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People - ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, 0818 222 024

Thought: As we get older our vision should improve. Not our vision of earth but, rather, our vision of heaven.

Newsletter: Items for inclusion to be handed into the Parochial House by 12pm on Thursday or email pp@straideparish.com.

Additional News Items - are included in the online Newsletter on www.straideparish.com

Western Care Association's Annual Door to Door Collection is now going online during the month of September. To donate, please find us on Facebook "Western Care Association" or go to www.idonate.ie/wcador or find the links on our website www.westerncare.com. Any donation will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate in any other way, we would be delighted to hear from you, please contact Teresa Ward on 094 90 29174 or 087 246 7857 or email: tward@westerncare.com. Thank you for your support.

Counselling Course – a one year part-time course in Counselling in the Newman Institute in Ballina will begin 8th October at 7pm until 10pm and will run for 26 Thursday nights until 20th May 2021. There are also two Saturdays from 10am to 5pm to attend. Some people complete the course as a first step to train as a counsellor while others participate for their own self development or to assist them to cope better in their workplace or family life. The cost of the course is €1,200 and this can be paid in instalments. There is a deposit of €100 required to secure a place on the course. Please email reception@newman.ie for enquiries or phone 096 72066 for further details

Moy Davitt's News - Congratulations to Brendan Burke, Bohola on winning €390 in the Moy Davitt's 50/50 draw. A huge thank you to everyone who supported last week's draw, it is greatly appreciated. Tickets are available in the usual retail outlets and by clicking <https://smartlotto.ie/Bohola-moy-davitts>. Best of luck everyone and thanks again!

Do you want to learn more about mental health? Have you experience with mental health challenges? Are you a family member/supporter or health professional? If yes, then join the MAYO RECOVERY COLLEGE this Autumn Winter at our free Online interactive audio/video classes. Log onto www.recoverycollegewest.ie for our Prospectus. Please contact Karen McHale, Principal Recovery Educator 086 0294901 recovery.educatormrc@hse.ie to register.

Many thanks - to all for your co-operation during these changed (and often challenging) times. It is now more important than ever that we reinforce the measures already in place for the safety of all who attend Church. They are as follows:

- Social distancing must be practiced outside the Church (as you wait for entry into the Church and as you come from and return to your car).
- Social distancing must also be observed at all times within the Church – *please remember to keep two metres apart from anyone who is not a member of your household.*
- Use the sanitisers provided as you enter the church and as you exit.
- It is now obligatory to wear face coverings indoors.
- As the maximum number that can attend Mass remains at 50, a “*Ticket*” system is in operation. Tickets for the following weekend can be picked up at the back of the Church from the previous weekend and during the preceding days (on a first come basis). If a *Ticket* is handled, please do not return it to the box. Bring it home.
- All Masses are livestreamed from the parish website for the benefit of those who can not attend.
- A household may occupy a pew. Two couples / two individuals may sit at either ends of a pew.
- Holy Communion will be distributed on the hand (only) to those who wish to receive. It will take place at the end of Mass as people are leaving the Church.
- People must exit the Church (pew by pew) through the side door after receiving Communion, or by the main entrance if not receiving Communion – social distancing at all times.
- Offertory Collection Boxes will be left inside the entrance to the Church and at the exit. They will not be passed around during Mass. This does not mean there is “*no Offertory Collection*”!
- Offertory donations can also be made safely, securely and conveniently online at www.straideparish.com
- Newsletters are available as usual but, if handled, they must be brought home – not left on the seat or returned.
- The Church will be sanitised after each daily Mass and deep cleaned after each weekend Mass.
- For weekday Mass, parishioners are asked to indicate where they sat, by leaving an indicator flyer at their seat
- Church CCTV footage will be used for contact tracing, if required, in the event of a positive case emerging.

A thought on how we should receive Holy Communion - Writing in the fourth century, St Cyril of Jerusalem has this to say: ‘*When you approach the altar, do not go stretching out your open hands or having your fingers spread out, but make the right hand into a throne for the left which will receive the King, and then cup your open hand and take the Body of Christ, reciting Amen.*’ It’s a lovely image of the hand being a throne for the King, the risen Lord Jesus, with whom we quite literally connect when we come to this sacrament.

IF YOU NEED HELP

Many parishioners have volunteered to help those who may not be able to shop, collect medicines, go to the Post Office etc. during this Coronavirus outbreak. If, at any time, you need help with these chores call me on (094) 9031029 and I will liaise with the many volunteers within the community who are very happy to help out.

Keep safe, keep healthy and, at all times, follow HSE / Government guidelines. Say a prayer, too, for all who have caught the virus and for all medical staff, carers and volunteers who are working so very hard at this time. (Fr. Martin)

St. Vincent de Paul (Foxford) – can provide help for those in Straide who may be in need of food or fuel. Contact (085) 8887777

Are you finding it difficult to cope - with life's problems? Perhaps GROW can help you. GROW is a free confidential support group, promoting positive mental health using a 12 step program. Meetings run weekly on Tuesdays at 8pm in the Ballina

Community centre. For further information on GROW or other GROW meetings across Co Mayo, you can contact Emily at 086 4183543, www.grow.ie or the GROW information line 1890 474 474

Pope Francis Prayer of Protection Against Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Human Race, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test -
– and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Genealogy – Are you interested in tracing your ancestors or have a relative overseas who would like to trace their roots? The North Mayo Heritage Centre, Crossmolina can help. Gift vouchers also available. Contact (096) 31809.

ACCORD Marriage Preparation Courses 2020 - Fri. 25th / Sat. 26 Sept.; Fri. 30th / Sat. 31 Oct.; Fri. 27th / Sat. 28 Nov.
Courses are held in McWilliam Park Hotel, delivered by ACCORD Charlestown Centre. Best to book online
at www.accord.ie and there to see all the dates being offered by Castlebar, Ballina, Sligo & Roscommon ACCORD Centres

CCTV – operates 24 / 7 within the Church and in the Church car park. The parish policy concerning CCTV can be found on the parish website (www.straideparish.com) – as can all parish policies.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – has implications for parishes, one being that we can no longer publish names of Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Society or Collectors in Newsletters / Website without written permission. We hope to phase the regulations in throughout 2019. Forms are available on the altar rails. Please bring one home, fill in and return to the Church.

Knock Counselling Service – available at (094) 93 75032 or log on to www.knockshrine.ie/counselling

Accord Counselling - Challenging times can be rough on relationships. When it comes to protecting your most precious investment (your marriage), talk to ACCORD. Our services, based on your needs, not your ability to pay, can help you get the most from your marriage. Morning and evening appointments are available. Office hours are from 10 am to 1pm Monday to Friday, contact (094) 92 54944 or Lo-call 1850 201 878 or email accordcharlestown@gmail.com.