



## Ss. Peter & Paul's Church, Straide

Fr. Martin Convey P.P., Tel: (094) 9031029

email: pp@straideparish.com, Parish Website: www.straideparish.com



### Masses

**January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	People of the Parish Community	
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	Eileen Stephens (Month's Mind)	Grallagh
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7.00 pm*</b>	Feast of St. Bridget	
		Bridget Cogger (7th Anniv) and parents Delia & Martin	Cloonconlon
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord / Candlemas Day	
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Feast of St. Blaise	
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Private Intention	
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Private Intention	
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	Bea Mulroy	Coolkeevaune
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	People of the Parish Community	

**\*Please note** – the later time of Mass on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.00 pm.

**St. Brigid's Crosses** – anyone who would like to have St. Brigid's Crosses blessed can leave them in the Church beforehand. Crosses will be blessed during daily Mass which will be at 7.00 pm on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Candlemas Day** – is on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Candles for use in the Church will be blessed during the 10.00 am Mass that day. Thanks to all who donate candles for use in the Church each year. Those who would like to have Candles for use in the home blessed can leave them in the Church for blessing on that day.

**Please observe** - all sanitizing requirements if leaving candles or crosses into the Church and / or collecting them.

**Feast of St. Blaise** – takes place on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The traditional blessing of throats will be given online after the 10 am Mass that day, as well as after the Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

### Prayer to Saint Brigid

St. Brigid,

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.

Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

Amen.



**Straide Cemetery Maps** – are now due for updating. Updating takes place every three years. The existing maps have now been removed and will shortly be replaced with the new updated ones.

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Feast of Saint Blaise.** On this date the traditional Saint Blaise blessing of throats is offered. Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary *Acts of St. Blaise* were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheatre stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears. The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone. Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. Blaise refused and consequently died a martyr's death.

**Altar Society February:** Nora McNicholas & Marian McHale

**You can now make your Offertory Donations** - simply, conveniently and securely online at our parish website – straideparish.com. Many thanks to those who use this new facility. Thank you for your ongoing generosity & support.

**Offertory Collections** – Sincere thanks to all who dropped in Offertory Envelopes to the parochial house during the week and to those who made online donations through the parish website. It is much appreciated.

**Thought:** When man ceases to worship God, he does not worship nothing but worships everything (G.K. Chesterton).

**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

**All Masses from Straide Church** - are now streamed online from the parish website – [www.straideparish.com](http://www.straideparish.com).

Unfortunately, during this present level of lock down, it is not possible to have parishioners present at Masses.

However, the Church remains open throughout the day for private visits and prayer.

**Coolegraine Lights** - Raised an amazing figure of €8,034 this year which will be great boost to the O`Dwyer Cheshire Home and Mayo Cheshire Transport. Thanks to all for your generosity. A very special thanks to Kevin and Brendan Hughes for the wonderful display of lights and for the time and effort put into erecting them.

**Catholic Schools Week 2021** - concludes this Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The theme this year is ‘*Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience*’. We keep all pupils and staff very much in our prayers, and are grateful for the hope and joy they bring to our communities.

**Message for Catholic Schools Week from Bishop Paul Dempsey** - It was one year ago, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, that Pope Francis appointed me as Bishop of Achonry. One of the very special aspects of the day was to have so many of the school communities from around the diocese present in the Cathedral on the morning the announcement was made. Principals, teachers, members of staff and, of course, many boys and girls were present as Archbishop Jude, the Papal Nuncio, made the announcement. It was lovely to have the large gathering in the Cathedral, a gathering full of vibrancy and hope! We did not realise it at the time, but it was probably one of the last large gatherings we would attend in the diocese before the full onset of the COVID 19 situation. Since becoming bishop on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, I have been very fortunate, despite the lockdowns, to visit all the parishes in the diocese. Due to the situation, these were limited visits, and I could not visit the local schools, but I received a very warm and hearty welcome from the people in the parishes. I thank you most sincerely for that. As we approach February, I have noticed the stretch in the evenings, the snowdrops are starting to peep through the earth, the rollout of the vaccine is progressing, and thankfully the numbers contracting COVID seems to be decreasing. Even though we may be feeling a bit fed up with lockdown, these are great signs of hope for us all. If we continue to put the “shoulder to the wheel” in the coming months we will come out of this and we can look forward to connecting with each other and our loved ones in a real sense, not just virtually! Please God, when it is safe to do so, I look forward to getting around the diocese and visiting our great schools which really are communities of faith and resilience. The boys and girls came to visit me last January in the Cathedral, so I am looking forward to going out and visiting them in their schools as soon as I can. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I thank our Boards of Management, our principals, our teachers, SNAs, and members of staff who continue to work very hard to teach our children online. It is not easy, but you are doing a great job which is very much appreciated. I also thank Fr. Martin Henry, Marian Maloney, Sr. Mary Richardson, and our priests for all the work they do in supporting our teachers and pupils in the area of faith formation in our schools. The 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 was a moment of great hope and vibrancy in the Cathedral, that message is very much alive in our diocese today! To all of you in our school communities this Catholic Schools Week, I send my best wishes and pray God’s blessing upon you all. Keep safe and remember keep washing those hands!

With warm wishes,

+Paul

**Home Sharers required** - Have you room in your home? Have you room in your heart? Would you be interested in sharing your home and supporting a person with additional needs, for a few hours per day, a couple days per month, or long term. We are looking for single people, couples, married people and/or families to provide short or long term respite for children or adults. For further info. contact Western Care Association, Social Work Dept. on 094 902513.

### **Prayer During a Pandemic**

We pray together:

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For those lost to coronavirus, we pray for their souls and for the loved ones who mourn them.

For breadwinners working from home and for households who are home-schooling, we pray for patience and success.

For front-line workers caring for the sick and comforting the dying, we pray for protection, strength, and blessings.

For children and young adults who miss the company of friends, we pray for perseverance and understanding.

For all confined to their homes facing isolation and loneliness, we pray for God’s presence and companionship.

For those suffering in silence, we pray for healing and strength.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time, may your Church always be a sign of Hope, Comfort and Love to all.

Grant Peace. Grant Comfort. Grant Healing.

Be always with us, Lord.

Amen.

**St Angela's College, Sligo** - invites applications for the following course beginning Autumn 2021: *Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) with Online Delivery*. The course is open to qualified primary school teachers; qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply. Closing date for Applications is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This date may be extended. For further information and application forms contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, School of Education, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo. E. mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie or visit [www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie](http://www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie)

**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.

### **Level 5 Coronavirus Guidance for Churches**

Under Level 5 restrictions all Masses are online. The church will be open, as usual, for private visits.

During this period, all Masses from the church will take place as usual, but without a congregation present.

**Mass Intentions (Anniversaries etc):** Those already booked will take place as originally scheduled unless the family wish to postpone. Due to the uncertainty surrounding church reopening, it is not possible to offer a rescheduled date.

All Masses are available to watch online at [www.straideparish.com](http://www.straideparish.com)

**Baptisms:** These can go ahead with minimum numbers (the baby, parents, godparents, and celebrant).

**Weddings:** are allowed with numbers limited to 6 people.

**Funerals** are limited to 10 people.

**Please Keep Safe in the church:** Use sanitizer gel; wear face covering and keep a safe distance from one another.

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

### **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 extremely 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

**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](http://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.

**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](mailto:accordcharlestown@gmail.com).

**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 COVID-19 (Coronavirus). 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 by calling 0818 222 024.

### **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.