

## ***Most Holy Rosary Parish, Midleton***

***Parish Newsletter December 22nd 2019***

***Parish Website: [www.midletonparish.ie](http://www.midletonparish.ie) Email: [midletonparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:midletonparishoffice@gmail.com)***

***Parish Mobile: 087 2468234 Parish Office: 021 4636508***



***Your prayers are requested for the repose of the following souls whose anniversaries occur:***

***Donal Lordan, Anne McCarthy (Nee McDonnell), Dan Hickey, John Cody, Mary & John Murphy, Hughie O'Halloran, Tommy Hennessy, Daniel (Dan) O'Reardon MPSI, Maurice (Moss) Horgan, Annie O'Callaghan, Ann Barry, Johanna Wilshin, Molly Cronin, Peg Fouhy, Pattie Walsh, Tom Kelleher, Abina Daly, Michael Daly, Bernie Bowman (nee Savage), Thomas McCarthy, John L. Heaphy, John Heaphy, Sheila & Martin McCarthy, Michael & Gretta Cuddigan,***

***May They Rest in Peace***

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**We welcome the new member of our Parish Community:**

**Who was recently Baptised.**

***Millie Claire McCarthy***

**Brochures containing times and venues of Christmas Ceremonies are available at the back of the Church for collection on your way out. Envelopes for Christmas Offerings can also be collected at the Church door as you leave.**

***Holy Rosary Parish Office will close on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 1.00pm and will reopen on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30am.***

### ***The Conception & Birth of Jesus According to Matthew.***

**Matthew begins by telling us that Mary was betrothed to Joseph. According to the prevailing Jewish Law, betrothal already established a Juridical Bond between the two parties, so that Mary could be called Joseph's wife, even though he had not yet taken her for into his home – the step which established the married state. While betrothed, the woman still lived in her parents' home. After a year, her husband would take her into his home thereby sealing the marriage. Now Joseph had to come to terms with the fact that Mary "was with child of The Holy Spirit" (Mt 1: 18.) With regard to the child's origin, Matthew is anticipating something here that Joseph does not yet know. Joseph has to assume that Mary has broken their engagement, and according to the law he must dismiss her. He has a choice between a public juridical act and a private form. He can bring Mary before the court or he can issue her with a private writ of divorce. Joseph decides on the latter option, in order "not to put her to shame" (1:19:). Matthew sees in this choice an indication that Joseph was "a just man." Pope Benedict XVI "The Infancy Narratives, Jesus of Nazareth, pp. 38-39.**

My friends,

Home is everything, without it we are all lost! Home is where we are safe and sound.

So much of our contact and connection is now done by way of technology and it is great in many aspects but it is still less than the real thing.

In the midst of almost full employment so many are without a place to call home. Enormous amounts of money have been directed toward alleviating the housing crisis. It needs to continue but needs to be re-evaluated for its impact.

The plight of asylum seekers and refugees has generated heated debate. Their coming to Ireland is both a challenge and opportunity. As a people we have known both the rejection that emigration brought in some contexts but also the welcome given our forebears across many countries in which they sought a better life.

The Christmas Crib scene is often so sanitised that the harsh reality of the homeless young couple is not evident. The child born to them was destined to change our view of the stranger.

All strangers evoke some anxiety and fear. That is until we begin to meet the stranger and begin to ask ourselves what it is we are afraid of? Many new and strange experiences continually come into our lives. If we fail to welcome them, we are all the poorer.

Great credit is due to so many communities who have conscientiously supported the work of integration. Our schools deserve special recognition for their work in this regard, often without additional resources being provided. Still the challenge remains. We have shown that we have the capacity to do whatever is required.

In a time of great change in society we all can feel a sense of strangeness. Things are not like they were. For older people it can be like a foreign country. For younger people it can be reflected in anxiety about where one fits in or for others a deeper sense of alienation of being outside the flow of society. This too is a form of homelessness, of not feeling secure and welcome. Christmastime often sharpens that experience of being outside the loop of celebration.

Whatever your mood at this time you are welcome. Find your own time and space among our gatherings in prayer. Stillness before the great mystery of these days can be wonderous in coming home to our God gifted selves.

Wishing you Joy and Peace.

+ Wm. Crean

Bishop of Cloyne

**As we approach Christmas Day the priests of the parish would like to take this opportunity to wish all our parishioners a very Holy, Happy and Peaceful Christmas. *\*Please note from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> – to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> the 10.00am Mass, is the only morning Mass being celebrated in the parish.***