

Midleton Parish Newsletter (Covid Times)

29th November 2020, First Sunday of Advent

Clergy in the Parish:

Priests: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Jim Killeen, P.P., V.G. 021-4631750
V. Rev. John Ryan, P.E., C.C. 086-2697503
Rev. Mark Hehir, C.C. 021-4621670
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eamon Goold, P.E., 021-4633659
Deacon: Rev. Edward Mulhare

Priest on Duty: 087-246 8234 (For emergencies and also arranging wedding bookings)

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Thursday – ring between 10 and 11am. Any documentation (e.g. Baptismal certs) can be requested and anyone who wishes to get Mass Cards or Mass Bouquets can give the details and then documentation or cards can be collected on Friday at the office between 10.30 - 11.30am. Phone 021-4636508.

Parish website: midletonparish.ie **Parish e-mail:** midletonparishoffice@gmail.com

Mass Times: Sundays Saturday Vigil 6.10pm
Sunday Morning 8am, 10am and Noon

Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 10am; (Masses are without congregation and televised).
Night Prayer every night at 8pm (televised).

The Church will be open for private prayers after the 10am Mass from Monday to Saturday and after the Noon Mass on Sunday. It will be closed at 5pm every evening.

'Prayers for our Dead' will be televised every Sunday evening at 5.15pm during November. on Sunday 29th for those in Churchtown and Ballinacurra Cemeteries.

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church's year. Advent is the first season to be celebrated and it is a season of preparation. It prepares us for two things. From the first Sunday to December 16th the focus is preparation for the second coming of Jesus Christ. From the 17th to the 24th the liturgy focuses on the lead up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.

This Church year the Readings for Sunday are taken from Cycle B and the weekday readings are from Cycle 1.

Pope's Intentions for December: Intention for evangelization -For a life of prayer. *"We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer."*

Feast days this week: Monday 30th November, St. Andrew the Apostle was a disciple of John the Baptist when he was called by Jesus. He in turn brought his brother Peter to Jesus. He died a martyr's death by crucifixion. Tradition says the cross was x-shaped. Patron saint of Russia, Scotland and fishermen. Thursday 3rd December, St. Francis Xavier 1506-1559. Was one of the first seven Jesuits and St. Ignatius of Loyola sent him as a missionary to India. He converted many in Goa and later in Japan. He died while trying to enter into China. A patron of the missions. Friday 4th December, St. John Damascene 675-749 a Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defence of the use of icons for prayer. He is one of the doctors of the Church.

Funerals –The following arrangements apply to funerals in the parish during Level 5: the priests cannot lead prayers in houses or funeral homes, the number attending the Funeral Mass is limited to 25 and the congregation cannot receive Holy Communion.

Weddings - the number able to attend a wedding is limited to 25 also.

Confessions: No Confessions during Level 5.

Pope Francis, “Fratelli tutti” – here is the second prayer from the encyclical:

An Ecumenical Christian Prayer

*O God, Trinity of love,
from the profound communion of your divine life,
pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.*

*Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognizing him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each brother or sister
who makes a new start.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves. Amen.*

In the first 8 paragraphs of “Fratelli tutti”, Pope Francis gives an introduction to the topic of fraternity and social friendship. He refers to St. Francis’ journey to the Middle East with the love of God as his only weapon as inspiration in paragraphs 3 and 4. Then in n.6 he writes: “the following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching of fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to every man and woman. I offer this social Encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words. Although I have written it from the Christian convictions that inspire and sustain me, I have sought to make this reflection an invitation to dialogue among all people of good will.” Then in n.7 he says “As I was writing this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities. Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all. Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learnt was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality.”

Quote: from Blessed Carlo Acutis – “All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies.”