

**Midleton Parish Newsletter (Covid Times)**

**20<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Fourth 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 21<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am to 1.00pm. The Parish Office will close on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1pm and will re-open on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 @ 10.30am. Phone 021-4636508.

**Parish website:** midletonparish.ie **Parish e-mail:** [midletonparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:midletonparishoffice@gmail.com) and to access the webcam for Masses log on to [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) and enter 'midleton' in the search box.

**Mass times**

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup>** **Saturday Vigil** 6.10pm  
**Sunday Morning** 8am, 10am and Noon

*Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning Masses are restricted to 100 people using the two hubs of 50. Details are on the notice board at the back of the Church.*

**Weekday Masses this week:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> are at 8am, 10am and 7.30pm, with limit of 100 in two groups of 50.

*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve. All Masses behind closed doors on parish television and internet only. Mass in the morning at 8am and 10am. The Church will be opened from after 10am Mass to 4pm for private prayer.*

*Children's Christmas Mass at 6.10pm*

*'Midnight Mass' at 9pm*

**Christmas Day:** All Masses behind closed doors on parish television and internet only. Masses at 8am and 10am. The Church will be open after the 10am Mass for private prayer and visits to the crib. Holy Communion will be available in the Church up to 12.30pm. A queueing system will be in place to ensure social distance. Church closes at 5pm

*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December, St. Stephen's Day, Mass 10am behind closed doors on parish television and internet only. Church open from after 10am Mass to 4pm.*

**Confessions:** Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after 10am Mass and from 6pm to 7pm. Confessions will be heard in the Adoration Chapel, entrance from Our Lady's Chapel. "Traditionally many people turn at this time of the year to ask for God's forgiveness and for healing of spirit. Although it may not be possible for all who wish to go to Confession to safely avail of the sacrament, we encourage the faithful to confidently place their trust in God's mercy through an Act of Perfect Contrition." (Irish Episcopal Conference)



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> after Mass to 5pm.**

**Feast days this week:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Peter Canisius 1521-1597. Born in Holland. He joined the Jesuits and through his courtesy and learning promoted the Catholic revival after the Council of Trent. His greatest work was a catechism published in 1555.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, St. John of Kanty, 1390-1472. A teacher of theology and scripture, was renowned for his austerity of life and generosity.

Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> St. Stephen – the first Christian martyr. Appointed as one of the seven deacons by the apostles he helped the poor and needy and was martyred by being stoned to death. Patron saint of deacons, bricklayers and stone masons.

**Anniversaries around this time:** David (Dots) O'Brien, Anne O'Brien, James O'Brien, Billy Grandon, Ciss Grandon, Pattie Walsh, Ann Barry, Joanna Wilshin, Molly Cronin, Peg Fouhy, Ellen Lehane, Donie Kennedy, Kathleen Durham,

**"Bible Corner"** – The Christmas Masses this year are the 6.10pm and 9pm on Christmas Eve and 8am and 10am on Christmas morning. The four Masses will probably have different readings – one for the Vigil, one technically for Midnight but used at 9pm, one for dawn (8am) and one for the day (10am) on Christmas Day. They all cover aspects of the Christmas story and what it means. The Christmas story in Scripture is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Mark doesn't speak of Christmas and John doesn't tell the story of Christmas but explains what it means – *the Word was made flesh*.

Pope Francis, "Fratelli tutti" – as I sat to summarize the last parts of chapter one for this week's bulletin I ended up coming back to this one paragraph because it highlights some of the problems that we face. In different areas of life 'there exists a moral deterioration' and 'a weakening of spiritual values and responsibility'. Paragraphs 30 to 53 deal with some of those areas, including the virtual world of the internet. I am quoting n.29 because towards the end it focused on the most vulnerable of the world – today's 'Holy Innocents'. *"With the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, we do not ignore the positive advances made in the areas of science, technology, medicine, industry and welfare, above all in developed countries. Nonetheless, "we wish to emphasize that, together with these historical advances, great and valued as they are, there exists a moral deterioration that influences international action and a weakening of spiritual values and responsibility. This contributes to a general feeling of frustration, isolation and desperation". We see "outbreaks of tension and a buildup of arms and ammunition in a global context dominated by uncertainty, disillusionment, fear of the future, and controlled by narrow economic interests". We can also point to "major political crises, situations of injustice and the lack of an equitable distribution of natural resources... In the face of such crises that result in the deaths of millions of children – emaciated from poverty and hunger – there is an unacceptable silence on the international level".[27] This panorama, for all its undeniable advances, does not appear to lead to a more humane future."* In this week leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem let us pray for those millions of children who starve in our world today. Two places that come to mind are Yemen and Syria – there are many other places in the world that have problems of this nature too, but let us not forget them, and their families who suffer with them, in our prayers. Jesus was born in a stable. Let us link that image of our Saviour with the image of the many children who, at this moment in time, are living with their families in refugee camps and lack the basics of life.

**Quote:** from Blessed Carlo Acutis, "To always be close to Jesus, that's my plan"