

Midleton Parish Newsletter (Covid Times)

27th December 2020, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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: The Parish Office will re-open on Monday, January 4th 2021 @ 10.30am. Phone 021-4636508.

Parish website: midletonparish.ie Parish e-mail: midletonparishoffice@gmail.com and to access the webcam for Masses log on to www.churchservices.tv and enter 'midleton' in the search box.

Mass times

Sunday, 27 th	Saturday Vigil	6.10pm
	Sunday Morning	8am, 10am and Noon

Weekday Masses this week: Monday December 28th to Friday January 1st, 10am and 7.30pm. Masses at usual times from Saturday January 2nd onwards in line with Covid19 restrictions. The restrictions are at level 5 from St. Stephen's Day. No Congregations for daily and Sunday Masses until further notice. All Masses will be televised on Saorview and can be viewed on the internet as well. The Church will be opened after the 10am Mass for private prayer and closed at 5pm.

Night Prayer at 8pm every evening, beginning from Monday 28th.

Funerals from St. Stephen's Day onwards will have a maximum of 10 people and from January 1st, weddings are reduced to 6.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this year, we do so in the shadow of the pandemic that has spread throughout the world and taken millions of lives. In so many ways people have suffered due to the effects of the virus on our world. The uncertainty that has come with it can be very trying and hard to deal with and it is disappointing to reach a stage where we are back into level 5 for the foreseeable future. Be assured that as we come to the end of 2020 and enter into the new year that the clergy of the parish keep you all firmly in our prayers and thank you for your support in all ways especially in your prayers for us and words of encouragement. May God bless you all and all who are dear to you at this time.

Feast days this week: Sunday 27th, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; Monday 28th, the Holy Innocents, Martyrs; Tuesday, 29th St. Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr, killed in the cathedral of Canterbury on this date 1170; Thursday 31st, St. Sylvester, elected pope the year after the Edict of Milan and was pope for 21 years, dying in 335. Friday January 1st, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, last day of the Christmas Octave and World Day of Peace. Saturday January 2nd, St. Basil the Great (330-379) and St. Gregory Nazianzen (329-389). They were friends, both were made bishops and are considered doctors of the Church for their writings.

“Bible Corner” – in the readings for the Feast of the Holy Family this Sunday in the first and the second reading we encounter Abraham, his wife Sarah and Isaac, their son. Abraham is considered to be the first of the three great patriarchs in the Jewish tradition and the Jewish tradition refers to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For us Christians, Abraham is recognised as our father in faith and he is the first person mentioned by Matthew in his genealogy of Jesus. Jesus is the fulfilment of the covenant made to Abraham and in the Gospel Simeon is portrayed as the custodian of hope for the fulfilment of the promise of the Chosen One, the Christ of the Lord. The covenants of the Old Testament culminate in the New Covenant in Jesus, born of Mary, protected by Joseph, the Son who is the light of the world and the Saviour of God’s people through his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Pope Francis, **“Fratelli tutti”** – Pope Francis finishes Chapter One with two paragraphs on hope, nn.54 and 55.

HOPE

54. Despite these dark clouds, which may not be ignored, I would like in the following pages to take up and discuss many new paths of hope. For God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family. The recent pandemic enabled us to recognize and appreciate once more all those around us who, in the midst of fear, responded by putting their lives on the line. We began to realize that our lives are interwoven with and sustained by ordinary people valiantly shaping the decisive events of our shared history: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caretakers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests and religious... They understood that no one is saved alone.[51]

N.54 is a paragraph that spells out the reality of the times we have lived in over the last ten months or so. We have all experienced the dedication of those at the front line and will continue to experience it. Also, we have been reminded of the importance of the basics and how much of modern life is non-essential. We have come to recognise what is important. In n.55 the pope invites us to a renewed hope and I am leaving it to speak for itself:

55. I invite everyone to renewed hope, for hope "speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfilment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile".[52] Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope.

Quote: the quote today is a little bit longer than usual. It is the Canticum of Simeon as given in the night prayer of the Church: Antiphon: *“Save us Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.”*

At last, all-powerful Master, you give leave to your servant to go in peace according to your promise. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen (Repeat the Antiphon)