

Midleton Parish Newsletter (Covid Times)

6th December 2020, Second 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 – 10.30am to 1.00pm. Friday 10.30am to Noon. 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 Friday 8am; Monday to Saturday 10am; televised and with congregation of 50.

The Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses are open for 100 people; details on the insert that was in last week's bulletin and a notice at the back of Holy Rosary Church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays and Fridays has re-started. There is a problem this week due to the First Communions being celebrated. The ceremonies take place Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons and the Church is reserved for those involved in the ceremonies. Exposition will resume next week. Please keep the First communicants and their families in your prayers this weekend and during the week.

Tuesday 8th December is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses at 8am, 10am, Noon, and 7.30pm on the Holy Day. The following reflection on Mary was written by Fr. Ronan Drury who was Professor of Homiletics in Maynooth for many years. He died in 2017 at the age of 93 and a book with a selection of his writings, homilies and reflections has been published. This is taken from that selection:

“Mary, One Who Waits. Mary waited; indeed her whole life was marked by waiting. Waiting nine months for the birth of her son, three days when he was lost as a teenager, waiting for his answer to the young married couple in Cana in need of help, waiting on the edge of the crowd for him to speak to her as he taught them and hearing him say, ‘the one who hears the Word of God and fulfils it is my mother, my sister and my brother.’ And then, standing at the cross as a sword pierced her soul waiting for him to die followed by the awful waiting throughout that day between his death and resurrection. Always she waited in some perplexity or anxiety and so Mary must be the patron of those who have to wait. Those who await news of their son or daughter, husband or wife, the result of a medical test or an exam or other tense moments in their lives. There is a story told of Christ asking St. Peter in heaven, ‘Why are some here who shouldn’t have arrived yet?’ to which Peter responds, ‘Well I don’t let them in the front gates of heaven, but they go around to the back and your Mother lets them in.’ And Jesus laughed. Mary is our back door and she always keeps it ajar. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary”

Confessions: Confessions will be heard on Saturday from Noon to 1pm in the Adoration Chapel, entry from Our Lady's Chapel.

We have had a number of inquiries about Christmas Masses. No decisions have been made in relation to them yet. When arrangements are decided they will be announced.

Feast days this week: Monday 7th St. Ambrose (340-397), was successful in public life becoming governor of the Roman province whose seat was in Milan. In 374 the laity of Milan insisted on his becoming bishop even though he was still not baptised. Baptised and ordained, he took on the role and he defended the faith through his preaching and writing and is a doctor of the Church; Wednesday 9th St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, 1474-1548, the visionary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December 1531; Thursday 10th Our Lady of Loreto; Friday 11th St. Damasus I died in 384 at the age of 80, as Pope he insisted on the apostolic foundations of the Roman See, was active against the heresies of the 4th century and commissioned St. Jerome to translate the Bible into Latin; 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Pope Francis, "Fratelli tutti" – the encyclical can be found on the internet at www.vatican.va; when you enter the site, if it is in Italian, there is a chance to change the language to English given in the top right corner of the page that presents Pope Francis and various options to choose in relation to his life and work. Then, click on the word Encyclicals and when the page opens you will see "Fratelli tutti" and a choice of languages including English.

The Encyclical has an Introduction (which we have looked at) and eight chapters. The first chapter's title is 'Dark Clouds over a Closed World' and goes from n.9 to n.55. Next week I will share some thoughts on that chapter and we can work through the encyclical over the next few weeks taking a chapter per week.

"Bible Corner" – We come across the prophet Isaiah a lot during Advent and also in the Christmas season. The first reading this weekend is from chapter 40 of the Book of Isaiah and when we look at it in the light of the New Testament we recognise that it is the prophecy speaking of John the Baptist and his role in salvation history. The Gospel from Mark links in with the prophecy as do the other three Gospels. All in some way speak of John in the light of what Isaiah says in chapter 40. Isaiah chapters 40 to 55 are the second part of the whole book and in some bibles has the title of The Book of the Consolation of Israel. It is one that is full of hope because historically it is written around the time that the people of Israel exiled in Babylon were close to being freed from captivity. The details in the book of consolation prophesies the freedom from captivity for those in Babylon and also the freedom we receive from sin and death through the good news of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist is the one who prepares the people of Israel of his generation for the coming Messiah in his preaching and baptizing at the River Jordan.

St. Mark tends to be very direct when it comes to describing things. There is no birth narrative – he opens by referring to the prophet Isaiah and what he says and by the end of chapter one Jesus is baptised, has started his ministry, chosen four of the disciples and cured some people including St. Peter's mother-in-law.

Please note – beginning next week, if you would like to have a loved one's anniversary remembered on the bulletin please contact the Parish Office.

Quote: "We are at war with a virus and not with each other" Joe Biden