

Midleton Parish Newsletter (Covid Times)

10th January 2021, The Baptism of the Lord

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)

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday – ring between 10.30 and 11.30am. 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 and to access the webcam for Masses log on to www.churchservices.tv and enter 'midleton' in the search box.

Mass times

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

Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 10am in line with Covid19 restrictions. There will be no 8am Mass during the week until further notice. The restrictions are at level 5. No Congregations for daily and Sunday Masses until further notice. All Masses will be televised on Saorview and on the internet. The Church will be opened after the 10am Mass for private prayer and closed at 5pm.

Night Prayer at 8pm every evening.

Funerals will have a maximum of 10 people and weddings are reduced to 6.

No exposition during Level 5. With the Eucharist present in the tabernacle, Adoration can still be done privately as the church is open for private prayer.

Feast days this week: Wednesday 13th, St. Hilary of Poitiers (315-367) c.353 was elected bishop of Poitiers and distinguished himself in his stand against the heresy of Arianism. He was exiled by the emperor Constantius from 356 to 359 and used that time to write. One of his major works was a study of the Trinity. Friday 15th, St. Ita, born in Co. Waterford into a Christian family and set her mind early on a religious life. Founded a monastery in Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick which attracted a great number of young people. she was given the title 'foster-mother of the saints of Ireland'. She died in 570. Saturday, 16th, St. Fursa: was born in Ireland, entered monastic life in East Anglia, together with two of his brothers. Because such great numbers of people visited him there, he headed to France around 644 and was given a hermitage at Lagny. He died c.650 and was buried in Peronne which became a great centre of devotion to him.

The Pope's Intentions for January – Intention for Evangelisation – Human Fraternity. "May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all."

Pope Francis, "Fratelli tutti" - Chapter Two of 'Fratelli tutti' is based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Pope Francis begins exploring the parable within its context. The understanding of relationships in Old and New Testament are presented in nn.57 to 62. He refers to the first one to go wrong, the brothers Cain and Abel; Job's seeing 'our origin in the one Creator as the basis of certain common rights: *"Did not he who made me in the womb also make him? And did not the same one fashion us in the womb?"* (Job 31:15)'; In the Book of Leviticus, we see the command to love our neighbour as yourself, but the understanding of that was confined to within the one nation until later times.

Pope Francis quotes references from the Old Testament about relationships with 'strangers' and 'foreigners' and references from the New Testament about 'the call to 'fraternal love'. They are in n.61. He opens that paragraph by saying: *'In the oldest texts of the Bible, we find a reason why our hearts should expand to embrace the foreigner. It derives from the enduring memory of the Jewish people that they themselves had once lived as foreigners in Egypt:*

"You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 22:21). "You shall not oppress a stranger; you know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 23:9). "When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Lev 19:33-34). "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the sojourner, the orphan, and the widow. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt" (Deut 24:21-22).

"For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'" (Gal 5:14). "Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness" (1 Jn 2:10-11). "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death" (1 Jn 3:14). "Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen" (1 Jn 4:20).

"Bible Corner" – Between now and February 6th the First reading at most of the weekend Masses is taken from the Letter to the Hebrews. The place, date and writer of this book of the New Testament are uncertain and much debated. It was given its title, 'to the Hebrews', in the second century. The last section of the Introduction to Paul in the New Jerusalem Bible gives an interesting view of who it was written for and its contents. Regarding who it was written for it says: "The letter clearly assumes not only that its readers are thoroughly familiar with the old covenant but that they are Jewish Christians, perhaps even Jewish priests, (cf. Acts 6:7), to judge by the emphasis on public worship and ceremonial. Having become Christians, they seem to have left Jerusalem and gone for shelter to some coastal townlike Caesarea or Antioch. They are tired of exile and think longingly of the splendour of Temple worship and of the part they played in it; their new faith is not very strong, and they have not yet properly understood it; persecution discourages them and they are tempted to revert to Judaism. The letter was written to them to try to prevent this from happening (Heb. 10:19-39). (will continue with this over the next couple of weeks).

Quote: *"The surest way to determine whether one possesses the love of God is to see whether he or she loves his or her neighbour. These two loves are never separated. Rest assured, the more you progress in love of neighbour the more your love of God will increase."* ~ St. Teresa of Avila