

Midleton Parish Newsletter (Covid Times)

17th January 2021 – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

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: Monday to Thursday – ring between 10.30 and 11.30am. Any documentation and Mass Cards or Mass Bouquets required can be ordered and then 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 Level 5 restrictions. No 8am Mass during the week until further notice. 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.

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

Night Prayer at 8pm every evening.

Feast days this week: Wednesday 20th St. Fabian martyred in 250 during the persecution of Decius after being pope for 14 years; St. Sebastian, tradition has it that Sebastian was a Roman soldier who converted and was martyred for his faith. Thursday 21st, St. Agnes, wealthy and beautiful, was martyred protecting her virginity during the last of the persecutions in Rome. Patron saint of engaged couples, gardeners and young girls. Friday 22nd, St. Vincent. A deacon of the Church of Saragossa in Spain was martyred after prolonged torture in 304.

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Monday 18th January and finishes on Monday 25th the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

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."

Quote: "Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, Though all things pass, God does not change. Patience wins all things. But he lacks nothing who possesses God; For God alone suffices." - St. Teresa of Avila

"Bible Corner" this week we continue looking at the Introduction to Hebrews as outlined in the New Jerusalem Bible: the author is trying to encourage people to hold firm in faith. The passage continues: *"To these exiles the author presents Christian life in the perspective of the Exodus, marching to the place of rest, the Promised Land of Heaven, an exodus not guided by Moses but by Christ, an incomparably superior leader, and led by the same light of faith and hope that had guided their ancestors in the Exodus and had illumined all the saints of old. Christ himself replaces the old priesthood and being a priest like Melchizedek, he is higher than Aaron. The many ineffectual sacrifices of Levitical worship are replaced by the one uniquely efficacious sacrifice of Christ himself, 8: 1-10. To prove this, the author shows how Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, is, as Leader and Priest, higher than all the angels and is ruler of all things (Chapters 1 and 2)."* (we will finish this next week)

On the publication of the Report of the 'Mother and Baby Homes' Commission

This week the long-awaited report of the Commission on the Mother and Baby Homes was published. Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, issued a statement on the publication of the Report and we wish to unite our thoughts and prayers with his as expressed in his statement, some of which is printed here:

"As a Church leader today, I accept that the Church was clearly part of that culture in which people were frequently stigmatized, judged and rejected. For that, and for the long-lasting hurt and emotional distress that has resulted, I unreservedly apologise to the survivors and to all those who are personally impacted by the realities it uncovers. Mindful of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which calls us to protect life and dignity and to treat everyone – especially little children and all who are vulnerable – with love, compassion and mercy, I believe the Church must continue to acknowledge before the Lord and before others its part in sustaining what the Report describes as a "harsh ... cold and uncaring atmosphere ... Although it may be distressing, it is important that all of us spend time in the coming days reflecting on this Report which touches on the personal story and experience of many families in Ireland. The Commission's Report helps to further open to the light what was for many years a hidden part of our shared history and it exposes the culture of isolation, secrecy and social ostracizing which faced "unmarried mothers" and their children in this country.

"I ask all those who are in positions of leadership in the Church to study this lengthy report carefully and especially to spend time reflecting on the courageous testimonies of the witnesses to the Commission. Together we must ask "How could this happen?" We must identify, accept and respond to the broader issues which the Report raises about our past, present and future."

"Above all we must continue to find ways of reaching out to those whose personal testimonies are central to this Report. They have shown determination in bringing to light this dark chapter in the life of Church and society. We owe it to them to take time to study and reflect on the findings and recommendations of the Report, and commit to doing what we can to help and support them. The Report makes it clear that many are still learning about their personal stories and searching for family members. The rights of all survivors to access personal information about themselves should be fully respected and I again urge the State to ensure that any remaining obstacles to information and tracing should be overcome. As Church, State and wider society we must ensure together that, in the Ireland of today, all children and their mothers feel wanted, welcomed and loved. We must also continue to ask ourselves where people today might feel similarly rejected, abandoned, forgotten or pushed to the margins."