

Midleton Parish Newsletter
10th December 2023 - 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: Open from Monday to Thursday 10.30am to 1pm and Friday 10.30am to Noon. Phone Number 021-4636508.

Parish website: midletonparish.ie **Parish e-mail:** midletonparishoffice@gmail.com and to access the webcam for Masses, log on to the parish website.

Mass Times: Vigil Mass: 6.10pm; Sunday 8am, 10am and 12 Noon. Ballintotis 10.30am. Weekday Masses this week: Monday to Friday 8am and 10am; Saturday 10am.

Advent: There are two more Sundays in Advent. The Third Sunday is on the 17th and the Fourth Sunday is Christmas Eve, 24th December. Masses for both of those Sundays as normal. The morning Masses on the 24th cover for the Fourth Sunday of Advent only and not for Christmas.

Christmas Details: Advent Carol Service, Sunday 17th December, 5pm.

Masses for Christmas: Christmas Eve, the Vigil Mass for Christmas Day at 6.10pm and 9pm in Holy Rosary and 8pm in Ballintotis.

Christmas Morning: 8am, 10am and Noon in Holy Rosary and 10.30am in Ballintotis. Tuesday, December 26th (St. Stephen's Day) to Saturday 30th, Mass at 10am only.

St. Vincent de Paul Collection: to date, has amounted to €4,650. Thank you for your generous response.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 9am to 10pm Monday to Friday.

Confessions: Saturdays from Noon to 1pm.

Anniversaries: Jim Lane, Sheila Kelleher, Eily O'Driscoll, Bea Cashman (nee Heaphy), Resa & Gerard Stack, Louis Farrell, Mary (Ciss) Grandon, Billy Grandon, Bill Higgins, James O'Brien, Lena O'Brien, Robert Wiggins, Connie Wiggins.

Closing Time of the Church: The closing time of Holy Rosary is 5pm.

The Pope's Intentions for December 2023: For Persons with Disabilities- *"We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation."*

Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina, translated as Divine reading continues this Wednesday night, 13th December at 7.30pm in the parish office.

Feast Days: Over the last three years we have looked at all the saints in the Liturgical Calendar as we move from week to week. This year we will concentrate on those days that are solemnities, feasts or memorials.

Wednesday 13th, *St. Lucy*, virgin and martyr. Desiring to remain consecrated to Christ alone, St. Lucy was martyred in 304 at Syracuse in Sicily during the persecution of Diocletian.

Thursday 14th, *St. John of the Cross*, priest and doctor of the Church, 1542-1591, was a Carmelite who, despite opposition and imprisonment, worked for spreading the reform of the Carmelites. He was a man of prayer, an outstanding poet, a spiritual writer and was declared doctor of the Church.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

It is hoped to re-introduce the Children's Liturgy at the 10.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday mornings. During Mass, after the introductory greeting, children from senior Infants to second class will be invited by the priest to go to the sacristy with trained volunteers for their own Liturgy of the Word. The children will return to their families during the preparation of the gifts to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The readings are adapted to the language of the child while still maintaining the integrity of the Word. The children are given opportunities to hear and respond to the Word of God in ways which are suited to their age and ability.

It is hoped this liturgy will re-commence possibly at the start of Lent in 2024. This Children's Liturgy is run by a group of volunteers.... a minimum of two at all times. Anyone interested in helping with this ministry is welcome. If interested, please contact the Parish Office at (021) 4636508.

For a short period of time, sample handouts used at the Children's liturgy will be available at the back of the Church. (Unfortunately, handouts for the current liturgy are not yet available.) Please feel free to take one for your child.

Cope Foundation: The Annual Christmas Coffee Morning, 2023 will take place in Cope Foundation Day Service, Broomfield West, Midleton, P25 YD93 on Thursday 14th, from 11am to 1pm. *"Come and join us for lots of Tea/Coffee, Sweet Treats & Fun! A raffle with great spot prizes will be held on the day! & Plenty of handmade Cards, Decorations, Wreaths, Table pieces & home baking!" Looking forward to seeing you all!"*

COP28 – UN Climate Conference in Dubai, November 30th to December 12th:

Continuing on from last week, Bishop Hayes also wrote: *"On 'Energy Transition', the LSWG highlights Pope Francis' view of COP28 as "a historic moment for our world, agreeing on 'binding forms of energy transition' (LD, 59). Pope Francis expresses the hope that this energy transition meets three conditions: be efficient, obligatory and readily monitored. In order to begin a new process of energy transition, away from fossil fuels, Pope Francis advocates 'that it be drastic, intense and count on the commitment of all' (LD 59). In the spirit of caring for our common home, we ask that the Government of Ireland take steps towards the ending of all fossil fuel subsidies and thereby ensure a fair transition to renewable energy. Encouraged by the divestment from fossil fuels policy of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, initiated in 2018, we urge that as a country we pledge our support for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty."*

Quote for the Week: *"Seek in reading, and you will find in meditation; knock in prayer and it will be open to you in contemplation"*

- St. John of the Cross