

Midleton Parish Newsletter
17th December 2023 - Third 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: Next Sunday (24th December, Christmas Eve) is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. As normal, there is the Vigil Mass on Saturday and the Sunday morning Masses in Holy Rosary and Ballintotis. The morning Masses on the 24th cover for the Fourth Sunday of Advent only and not for Christmas.

Christmas Details: Advent Carol Service, this Sunday 17th December, 5pm. The Penitential Service is on Thursday 21st December beginning at 7.30pm.

Masses for Christmas: Christmas Eve, 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 to Saturday 30th, Mass at 10am only.

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

Confessions: Friday 7pm – 8pm; Saturday 11.30-1pm.

Anniversaries: Fr. Edmund O'Brien, Eileen Lehane, Marie Hennessy, Pat & Paul O'Connell, Tom, Mary, Marian & Dermot Conroy, David (Dots) O'Brien, Anne O'Brien, Kitty Duggan (nee Daly), Jim & Gretta Beausang.

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."*

Quote for the Week: *"If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it."*
- St. Peter Canisius

Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina continues this Wednesday night, 20th December at 7.30pm in the parish office.

New Parish Pastoral Centre: The parish is looking for Painting Contractors who are interested in quoting for the complete painting internally of the new Parish Pastoral Centre. For further details and specification, contact Padraig Foley (Clerk of Works) 086-8060868

Feast Days: Monday 18th, *St. Flannan*, lived in the 7th century and was the son of a king of Thomond. He entered Malua's monastery at Killaloe and became abbot there. He is remembered as a great preacher.

Tuesday 20th, *St. Fachanan*. Although little is known with certainty about him, a long tradition from early times links him with Kilfenora and records that he founded a monastery or church there in the 6th century. He is venerated as patron of the diocese of Kilfenora, now part of Galway.

Thursday, 21st, *St. Peter Canisius*, 1521-97, was born in Holland. He intended to become a lawyer but joined the Jesuits. Through courtesy and learning he promoted the Catholic revival after the Council of Trent. His greatest work was a catechism of 211 questions and answers published in 1555.

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 at the start of Lent in 2024. 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. This Childrens 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. Please feel free to take one for your child.

Blessing of the Baby Jesus figures

All parishioners, and especially the children of the parish, are invited to bring the baby Jesus figures from their home crib to be blessed at all the Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent in Holy Rosary and Ballintotis. Following the tradition, on their return home after the blessing, the children are invited to wrap the blessed figurines in Christmas wrapping, place them under the tree, or other suitable location, to be opened as the first gift of Christmas, thus encouraging the children to make the connection between the gifts they receive on Christmas Day and the greatest gift that any of us can receive, Jesus.

Family Prayer for placing the figurine in the crib: *God our Father, You loved us so much you sent us your only Son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you. We pray that, with your blessing, these images of Jesus might be a sign of your presence and love in our homes. Good Father, give your blessing to all who gather with us this Christmas, our family and friends. Open our hearts, that we might receive Jesus in joy, do always what he asks of us, and see him in those who need our love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son, who came to give peace to the world. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.*