

Midleton Parish Newsletter
31st December 2023 - Feast of the Holy Family

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: The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday 2nd. This week the times are: Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am to 1pm and Friday from 10.30am to Noon. The Parish website is midletonparish.ie Parish e-mail: midletonparishoffice@gmail.com and to access the webcam for Masses, log on to the parish website.

Sunday Masses: Holy Rosary – Vigil 6.10pm; Sunday morning 8am, 10am and Noon. Ballintotis – 1030am.

Weekday Masses for this week:

Monday , January 1st (Bank Holiday) 10am;

Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th; 8am and 10am. Friday is the ‘first Friday’ of the month: there will be a 7.30pm Mass on the Friday night. As this is also the eve of the Epiphany, the 7.30pm Mass will be celebrated as the vigil for The Feast of the Epiphany.

Saturday 6th January – The Feast of the Epiphany, 10am and Noon in Holy Rosary.

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

Closing Time of the Church: Holy Rosary is closed at 5pm.

The Pope’s Intentions for January 2024: *For the Gift of Diversity in the Church:* We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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

The Lord’s Day: Central to the Church’s liturgical life is Sunday, the day of Christ’s resurrection. The observance begins with the evening of the preceding day. It is a day when all Catholics are obliged to take part in the Mass. ‘The Lord’s Supper is its centre, for there the whole community of the faithful encounters the risen Lord who invites them to his banquet’ (Catechism of the Catholic Church n. 1166). The Church encourages that Sunday, the ‘Lord’s Day’, also be a day for rest and recreation. It is also a day when the faithful can devote themselves to works of mercy and the apostolate. This is discussed also in the chapter of the Catechism on the Third Commandment.

Feast Days: This Sunday the 31st is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community and the Church itself. The celebration of the Incarnation has brought us to see God's closeness. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus, the simple acceptance by Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of the family and community we can touch the divine, we can come close to God. But we have to learn to live centred on God, with respect and love for each other.

Monday, January 1st, *Mary, the Holy Mother of God*, (World Day of Peace). At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave Life to the world. Hence, she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer (Lumen Gentium, 52)

Tuesday, January 2nd, *Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen*, bishops, doctors of the Church. St. Basil, 330-379, Bishop of Caesarea, lived an ascetic life establishing norms for monastic life. He was a theologian of distinction. St. Gregory, 329-389, a friend of Basil, was Bishop of Sasima later of Constantinople. He retired to live a monastic life.

Saturday 6th, *The Epiphany of the Lord*. "The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world...In the magi, the representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 528).

Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace: The topic this year is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. This is part of paragraph no. 5 of the message: *"In the future, the reliability of an applicant for a mortgage, the suitability of an individual for a job, the possibility of recidivism on the part of a convicted person, or the right to receive political asylum or social assistance could be determined by artificial intelligence systems. The lack of different levels of mediation that these systems introduce is particularly exposed to forms of bias and discrimination: systemic errors can easily multiply, producing not only injustices in individual cases but also, due to the domino effect, real forms of social inequality.*

At times too, forms of artificial intelligence seem capable of influencing individuals' decisions by operating through pre-determined options associated with stimuli and dissuasions, or by operating through a system of regulating people's choices based on information design. These forms of manipulation or social control require careful attention and oversight, and imply a clear legal responsibility on the part of their producers, their deployers, and government authorities.

Reliance on automatic processes that categorize individuals, for instance, by the pervasive use of surveillance or the adoption of social credit systems, could likewise have profound repercussions on the social fabric by establishing a ranking among citizens. These artificial processes of categorization could lead also to power conflicts, since they concern not only virtual users but real people. Fundamental respect for human dignity demands that we refuse to allow the uniqueness of the person to be identified with a set of data. Algorithms must not be allowed to determine how we understand human rights, to set aside the essential human values of compassion, mercy and forgiveness, or to eliminate the possibility of an individual changing and leaving his or her past behind."

Quote for the Week: *"To all earth's creatures God has given the broad earth, the springs, the rivers and the forests, giving the air to the birds, and the waters to those who live in water, giving abundantly to all the basic needs of life, not as a private possession, not restricted by law, not divided by boundaries, but as common to all, amply and in rich measure."*

- St. Gregory of Nazianzen