

**Midleton Parish Newsletter**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 - First 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](http://midletonparish.ie) **Parish e-mail:** [midletonparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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. *Friday is the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation – Masses 10am, Noon and 7.30pm.*

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

**Confessions:** Saturdays from Noon to 1pm.

**Anniversaries:** Margaret O'Brien, Barry O'Neill, Teresa Trace (nee Barry), Eileen O'Keeffe

**Closing Time of the Church:** Closing time for the winter will be 5pm unless there is an evening liturgy scheduled for after that time.

**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."*

**Advent:** The First Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Church's New Year. With it comes a change in the cycle of readings for both Sundays and weekdays. Sunday readings are from Cycle B (the year of Mark) and weekday readings are Year 2.

Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and hope. Waiting has two forms – the first one is in memory of the first coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh and the second is in prayer for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and Universal Judge

Conversion, to which the liturgy of this time often refers quoting the prophets, especially John the Baptist, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2)

Hope is a joyful hope that the salvation already accomplished by Christ (cf. Romans 8: 24-25) and the reality of grace in the world will mature and reach their fullness, thereby granting us what is promised by faith, and 'we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is' (John 3:2)



**Lectio Divina:** Lectio Divina, translated as Divine reading continues this Wednesday night, 6th of December at 7.30pm in the parish office.

**Feast Days:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, *St. John Damascene*, priest and doctor of the Church, 675-749, was a Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defence of icons in the iconoclastic controversy. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, *St. Nicholas*, is a fourth-century bishop of Myra in modern-day Turkey of whom little is known. Tradition gives him a reputation of great generosity. He is patron of Russia, sailors, pawnbrokers and of children.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, *St. Ambrose*, bishop and doctor of the Church, 339-397, became governor of the Roman province whose seat was in Milan. In 374, the laity insisted on his becoming bishop though he was still not baptised. He defended orthodoxy in brilliant preaching and through his writing. Patron of Milan, beekeepers and domestic animals.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, *St. Juan Diego*, 1474-1548. Saw the vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December 1531.

**Youth 2000 Ireland's** annual Christmas retreat is on in Dominican College, Newbridge, Co Kildare on the 8th -10th of December for ages 16-35. Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks & Workshops, Fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, Prayer, Drama, Games & time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be a young Catholic today. Free buses leaving from all over the country to the retreat. Donation only. Find out more and register now on [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)"

**COP28 – UN Climate Conference in Dubai, November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup>:**

From the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference website: On behalf of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference *Laudato Si'* Working Group (LSWG), Bishop Martin Hayes has written to Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, as well as to all frontbench environmental spokespersons of political parties North and South, seeking an urgent meeting with regard to Ireland's commitments for COP28, the UN Climate Conference which will take place in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December.

In his correspondence to politicians, Bishop Hayes has enclosed a copy of Pope Francis' recent publication that focuses on the climate crisis facing humanity, *Laudate Deum*. In an open letter, on behalf of the LSWG, Bishop Hayes stated, "*In his 2015 ground-breaking encyclical letter on care for creation Laudato Si', Pope Francis placed emphasis on our interconnectedness as human beings with our natural world. On 4 October last, the Feast of the patron of the environment, Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis issued a supplementary document, *Laudate Deum*, 'to clarify and complete' *Laudato Si'* (LD, 4). In *Laudate Deum*, the Holy Father highlights the consequences of ignoring that interconnectedness, ie. in seeing ourselves as separate from our natural world. In view of the ever-increasing global emissions – now comprehensively linked to the recent environmental disasters around our world and their impact upon the poorest and most vulnerable – the Pope calls us to act urgently, for 'the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point' (LD, 2)."* Will continue with this next week as the Conference approaches its end.

**Quote for the Week:** "*The Lord was baptized, not to be cleansed himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ, which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism.*"

St. Ambrose