

Midleton Parish Newsletter
21st January 2024 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday of the Word of God

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 is open Monday to Thursday 10.30am to 1pm and Friday 10.30am to Noon. Parish website is midletonparish.ie and you can gain access to the webcam for Masses by logging on to the website.

Parish e-mail is midletonparishoffice@gmail.com

Sunday Masses: Holy Rosary – Vigil 6.10pm; Sunday morning 8am, 10am and Noon. Ballintotis – 10.30am.

Weekday Masses for this week: Monday to Friday 8am and 10am. Saturday 10am.

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

Adorers are needed for these hours: Tuesday 3pm to 4pm; Thursday 2pm to 3pm and 5pm to 6pm. For details see the notices at the back of the Church.

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

Anniversaries: Bro. Cathal Smiddy, David Kennedy, John Horgan, Mary Horgan, Hamsie Hennessy, Michael O'Reilly, Pádraig Fitzgerald, John Cox, Mary Cooney, Mary O'Brien, Bridie & Tom Horgan, Seán McSweeney, Margaret Savage.

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.

Feast Days: Wednesday, 24th January, *St. Francis de Sales*, 1567-1622, bishop of Geneva, founder of the Visitation Sisters. He worked with gentleness and love to rebuild the Catholic faith after the reformation. Patron saint of writers, editors and journalists.

Thursday, 25th January, *The Conversion of St. Paul*. St. Paul preached the power of God at work in the lives of each one of us. His own conversion shows that power in his life. Out of a persecutor God made a preacher and teacher of the peoples. Paul never ceased to express thanks and wonder for this grace. But he still prayed for perseverance.

Friday, 26th January, *Ss. Timothy and Titus*, bishops, were close to St. Paul as followers and later in their work with him. Tradition makes Timothy the first bishop of Ephesus. And from Paul's advice to him to take some wine for his stomach's sake, he has been invoked as a patron in cases of stomach complaint. Titus was sent to organise the Church in Crete.

Saturday 27th January is the 11th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Crean. Continue to keep him in your prayers asking the Lord to bless him and to keep him safe as he continues his ministry as bishop leading the diocese in these times of uncertainty in so many different areas of life.

Sunday of the Word of God: Pope Francis declared the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. The reason for doing this was to ensure that there would be one Sunday in the year when we would look at the understanding of the importance of the Word of God even though we listen to it every Sunday, or every weekday if we go to daily Mass or we read if we have a bible that we read from regularly, and a lot of other ways and times we may encounter it. One point that Pope Francis made towards the beginning of the letter instituting this day goes as follows: *'The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible.'*

We have to be careful that we never take scripture for granted. It is integral to Christian life. In today's readings we see the psalmist call on the Lord to 'teach' him and Mark refers to the Good News, saying 'he (Jesus) proclaimed the Good News from God'. He then quotes Jesus, the second sentence of which is, 'Repent, and believe the Good News.' Today's scripture contains points that highlight what Pope Francis is looking at in relation to this day. We pray that the Lord may teach us his paths and that we may grow in our faith in the Good News from God, proclaimed by Jesus Christ.

Quote for the Week: *"Have patience with all things - but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being."*

- St. Francis de Sales

Catholic Schools week runs from Sunday January 21st to Sunday January 28th. Let us all pray in a special way for the Catholic schools in our parish – for the pupils, teachers, staff and management of the schools – that the Lord will bless them, keep them safe and inspire them in expressing the Catholic ethos within the school community and beyond through service to those in need.

Lectio Divina: if you would like to have your number put on the Lectio Divina WhatsApp group and receive a reminder whenever a meeting is taking place please text your name and number to 0879867058.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (from the Liturgical Calendar 2024, p.45)

"You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself (Luke 10:27)"

The theme for 2024 is based on a text from the Gospel of St. Luke, with material prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community, whose members have a special commitment to Christian unity. The theme, and the material prepared during such a precarious period in the country's history, helps us to recognise that the love of Christ unites all Christians and is stronger than their divisions. Material for the week is jointly published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (www.christianunity.va) and the Commission on Faith and Order of the Council of Churches. The source texts are available in English and Irish at <https://ctbi.org.uk/>.