

Middleton Parish Newsletter
28th January 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Clergy in the Parish:

Priests: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Jim Killeen, P.P., V.G. 021-4631750/087-2053938
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 middletonparish.ie and you can gain access to the webcam for Masses by logging on to the website.

Parish e-mail is middletonparishoffice@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.

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

Anniversaries: Ann Walsh, John Cashman, Seán & Mary Prunty, Nuala McDonnell, Mary McDonnell, Joe O'Mahony, Madge McNerney (nee Crotty), Mary Hartnett, James O'Shea, Alice O'Donnell, Sheila Ahern, Jack & Mary Harrington.

Catholic Schools week ends this Sunday January 28th. Let us all continue to 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.

The Pope's Intentions for February 2024: For the Terminally Ill, *"We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment."*

Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina this Wednesday, 31st @ 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

Notice in relation to severe weather conditions:

Over the last few weeks, we have experienced some extreme weather conditions ranging from icy and very cold to high winds and heavy rain. During that time the number of people in the areas hit who experienced falls and injuries to themselves was quite high. Quite often, during the months of February and March we encounter such conditions as well and we are conscious of how easy it can be for someone to get hurt in those conditions. It is proposed that when forecasts of severe weather are given, we will announce on the Sundays that the 8am Mass would be postponed during the week in order to ensure that all remain safe and well during the severe conditions.

Feast Days: Wednesday 31st, *St. John Bosco*, 1815-88, born in Piedmont, founded the Salesians to educate boys for life. He also became involved in publishing catechetical material for youth. He is a patron saint of youth and of Catholic publishers.

Thursday, 1st February, *St. Brigid*, Secondary Patron of Ireland, is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care for the sick. She was born c.454. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted on consecrating her virginity to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in several European countries. The St. Brigid's Cross, in legend used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith, remains a popular sign of God's protection.

Friday, 2nd February, *The Presentation of the Lord*, World Day for Consecrated Life. This feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary, mother of the Lord. Simeon recognised Jesus as 'a light to the reveal God to the nations' and on this day, traditionally called 'Candlemas' candles are blessed.

Saturday, 3rd February, *St. Blaise*, died in 315. Bishop of Sebaste, martyred in Armenia. Tradition states that he was a physician before becoming a bishop. Since the eight century he has been venerated as patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. From the liturgical calendar – The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick. Using two crossed and unlighted candles, blessed either on the memorial of St. Blaise or on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the minister touches the throat of each person, saying: 'Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and every other evil.'

Presbyterorum Ordinis: It has been a while since we looked at this document in relation to the life and ministry of the priest. We return to it today and look at paragraph 9. In this paragraph, priests are reminded that as well as their role as priest they are also disciples of the Lord:

"Though priests of the New Testament, in virtue of the sacrament of Orders, exercise the most outstanding and necessary office of father and teacher among and for the People of God, they are nevertheless, together with all Christ's faithful, disciples of the Lord, made sharers in his Kingdom by the grace of God's call. For priests are brothers among brothers with all those who have been reborn at the baptismal font. They are all members of one and the same Body of Christ, the building up of which is required of everyone.

Priests, therefore, must take the lead in seeking the things of Jesus Christ, not the things that are their own. They must work together with the lay faithful, and conduct themselves in their midst after the example of their Master, who among men "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life as redemption for many" (Mt 20:28). Priests must sincerely acknowledge and promote the dignity of the laity and the part proper to them in the mission of the Church.

What a priest received at baptism is not overridden by the sacrament of Ordination but should be enhanced and see us 'work together with the lay faithful' conducting themselves 'after the example of the Master'.

Quote for the Week: *"Let us carry our crosses with love; let us see that they do not become a burden to others, but let us help others carry theirs."*

- St. John Bosco

Clarification on Envelopes for Church Collections Midleton Parish (including Ballintotis)

The envelope collection system to collect donations for Midleton Parish (including Ballintotis) commences on the first weekend of 2024.

The collection system is completely voluntary. If parishioners decide to use the new collection system, the parish will be able to claim tax back from the government for donations at no cost to the parishioners, provided you donate a total €250 or more over the year. This works out at €5 week more or less. The higher the amount in a year the more tax we can claim back.

Envelopes are supplied in a large rectangular box. When the large box is opened, it contains two separate smaller boxes with the envelopes. One of the smaller boxes contains envelopes for the first half of the year and the second box contains the envelopes for the second half of the year. Two different envelopes are provided for each Sunday of the calendar year.

The two different envelope types in each box which can be distinguished by the colour of the envelope and the text on the front of the envelope. The first envelope is for PARISH OFFERINGS, traditionally collected in the church door collection and used to run the parish needs such as maintenance of churches and other parish property, supplies for Masses and other parish essentials.

On most Sundays the second envelope is for the parish development fund, which will go mainly to specific projects such as running our new parish centre, new lighting and alarm system in the church as well as providing various courses for people. This corresponds to our second collection inside the church. On some Sundays the second collection will go to Diocesan special collections, or to general diocesan purposes. The purpose of each collection will be printed on the envelope, as well as the date. These collections were traditionally collected in the basket offering at the middle of the mass and are used to help finance diocesan activities such as retired priests, funding seminarians.

Parishioners can decide to continue to contribute in the traditional manner to collection boxes and baskets and not partake in the new system if they wish to do so. However, the parish will not benefit from a government contribution from donations contributed using the old system.

If a parishioner decides to use the new system, they must ensure to complete the card that has the number of their envelopes with the first contribution(s) and add it to one of the envelopes with their first contribution. Any amount can be contributed in one or both envelopes as a parishioner wishes to do so.

Collection of the envelopes with contributions can be accommodated in the box inside the door of the church or in the basket as it is passed around before the offertory at the Mass. It is not essential that envelopes are used at every Mass. If a parishioner misses a week or two, at the next contribution the envelopes with correct date on which the contribution is made should be used to help keep good records for the government tax claim at the end of the year. Unused dated envelopes can be disposed of. Care should be taken that a few missed contributions don't bring the total to less than €250 over the year.

Midleton parish and the Diocese of Cloyne are extremely grateful for the support which our parishioners give to enable the parish to function effectively. The new collection system is not asking parishioners to contribute any more than previously donated to the parish. The introduction of the new system to collect parishioner contributions is essentially a method to help the parish and the diocese gain extra income using current tax legislation and is already used in many other parishes.