

Midleton Parish Newsletter  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

**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 [midletonparish.ie](http://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](mailto:midletonparishoffice@gmail.com)

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

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

**Confessions** are heard in the Adoration Chapel on Saturdays from Noon to 1pm.

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

**Anniversaries:** Alan O'Connor, Seán Keohane, John J. O'Donovan, Marion Barton, Maim Thompson, Catherine McCarthy, Dominic Knowles, Denis O'Sullivan, Con & Nora O'Brien, Brendan Hennessy, Leona Whyte.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Sunday evening during Lent at 5pm in Holy Rosary Church.

**Holy Rosary Closing Time:** On Sundays during Lent Holy Rosary will close after the Stations of the Cross. During the week it will close at 6pm unless there is a liturgy being celebrated later in the evening.

**The Pope's Intentions for March 2024:** For the New Martyrs: *"We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm."*

**Learn more about St. Paul:** Monsignor Goold will give his second talk on St Paul on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at the MyPlace centre, 8pm.

Many of our readings at Mass come from the letters of St Paul to various communities. Come along and learn a bit more about St. Paul and his importance to Christianity.

**Feast Days:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, *St. Aengus*, was a monk in Clonenagh, Co. Louth, who moved to the monastery at Tallaght at the end of the eighth century during the abbacy of Maelruain to spend a period under his direction. He was renowned for his devotion to both foreign and native saints and composed two martyrologies. He returned to Clonenagh, where he became abbot and bishop. He died around 824.



Cork Lions Club are holding their annual Patrick's Hill Ball Run in aid of the People of Gaza and Local Cork Charities at 2pm on Monday March 18th.

It is a fun family event and all are welcome. We will also be collecting old spectacles for recycling to the third world so bring along any old glasses and give them a new lease of life. Please support the fundraiser by buying balls on [www.corklionsclub.ie](http://www.corklionsclub.ie)

**Bible Corner:** This weekend's Gospel, taken from the Gospel of St. John, sees Jesus speaking of what must happen to him, 'the Son of Man' and why. He has to be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert – Jesus is speaking about his crucifixion: he will be crucified 'so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him'. The next verse, John 3:14, has often been seen on cards in football stadiums. It reads: 'Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.' God loved the world so much – he sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

There is a journal called 'Studies' that is published four times in the year that examines Irish social, political, cultural and economic issues in the light of Christian values and it also explores issues in literature, history philosophy and religion, with an emphasis on the Irish dimension. It is made up of a number of essays and an editorial before the essays that looks quickly at the topics being presented in the issue. The overall topic discussed in the Winter issue 2023-24, is that of Justice in the Here and Now and one of the points the editorial deals with is how Pope Francis is facing a lot of opposition especially in relation to his teaching in relation to social justice. The editor writes: *"For the Pope's conservative critics, of course, it is he who is the ideologue, and nowhere do they see it more than in his commitment to social justice. By giving unprecedented attention to climate change, migration, the death penalty, economic inequality, and other aspects of social justice he has shown himself, they think, to be a leftist, a Peronist, a Marxist, a Leninist – certainly a secularist whose only concern is with the bettering of life on earth...So where do they think the pope goes wrong? Bishop Athanasius Schneider, one of Francis' severest and most visible critics, thinks that progressive Catholics like the Pope ignore the reality that 'social justice is not the first task of the Church'. 'There were a lot of social problems, injustices, in the time of Jesus and the apostles,' Bishop Schneider said, 'but it was not the first concern of the mission of the Church. the first concern was to guide the souls to heaven.'*

*But it is precisely separating things out in this way that Francis opposes, and the magisterium of recent decades is with him on that. Vatican II affirms that 'a sense of the dignity of the human person has been impressing itself more and more deeply on the consciousness of contemporary man', and it asserts that that dignity is predicated on the scriptural doctrine that every person 'was created to the image of God'. And the Church since the Council has become increasingly sensitive to the consequences of this intimacy between God and God's creation. There is no love of God without love of neighbour."*

We can see in today's scripture where that point of non-separation of social justice and the saving of souls has a basis in different passages.

We have: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life in him' and in the second reading where Paul, writes to the Ephesians about God loving us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy – and that through grace we have been saved, through faith, ...by a gift from God...so that nobody can take the credit and that (Quote for the Week) *"we are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it."*