

Midleton Parish Newsletter
14th April 2024 – Third Sunday of Easter

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 from 10.30am to 1pm and Friday 10.30am to Noon.

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 - Monday to Friday 8am and 10am. Saturday 10am

Anniversaries: Seán Fitzgerald, Peg Horgan, John (Jacko) Deady, Gretta O’Sullivan, John Cox Jnr., Dommie Heaphy, Mary Lyons (nee Heaphy), Michael (Mikey) Heaphy, Kevin Dunne, Dermot O’Sullivan,

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel takes place as follows: Monday to Friday 9am to 10pm.

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

Holy Rosary Closing Time: Holy Rosary closes at 7pm.

The Pope’s Intentions for April 2024: For the Role of Women – *“We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.”*

Trocaire: Donations for Trocaire can be returned to the sacristy in Holy Rosary and to the Parish Office.

Lough Derg: The 2024 itinerary for Lough Derg is available. There are One Day Retreats, Three Day Retreats, Residential Retreats, Quiet Days and Lakeshore pilgrimages. The website is: www.loughderg.org and there is a notice up on the notice board at the back of Holy Rosary.

Brother Cunningham RIP

The family of the late Brother Cunningham would like to express their deepest gratitude to all the people of Midleton who attended his funeral in Limerick recently. It was greatly appreciated. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Lectio Divina takes place this Wednesday evening @7.30pm in the Parish Office.

'Five Saints for Easter

Today we look at the last two of the five: St. Paul and St. Matthias:

St. Paul on the Road to Damascus. Unlike Peter and Mary Magdalene, St. Paul did not witness the empty tomb, which invests his encounter with the resurrected Christ with a special significance. Christ's appearance to Paul on the road to Damascus is important because it undermines sceptic claims that the resurrection was the product of the overactive imagination of Jesus' followers. Not only was Paul not one of the original disciples—he was their persecutor. The Damascus story is especially noteworthy because, unlike all the other post-Resurrection appearances, it occurs *after* Jesus ascended. This points to the enduring reality of His presence.

St. Paul would go on to write about the centrality of the Resurrection to the Christian faith: If Christ has not been raised, your faith is pointless and you have not, after all, been released from your sins. In addition, those who have fallen asleep in Christ are utterly lost. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are of all people the most pitiable. (I Corinthians 15) To be blunt: without the resurrection, Christianity wouldn't exist. Jesus would have gone down in secular history as a wise teacher, a miracle worker, perhaps a would-be worldly Messiah, but it is the resurrection that stands as the foremost testament to the truth that Jesus was the Christ, God incarnate as man. May we take St. Paul's words to heart and consider ways in which the truth of the Resurrection is and should be at the centre of our faith and devotions.

The Replacement Apostle—St. Matthias. We know precious little of St. Matthias from the Bible, which records his name just twice. But his story illustrates the centrality the resurrection had for early Christianity, and particularly for what it meant to be a Christian apostle. After the Ascension, the apostles had a bit of housekeeping to do, as Acts 1 reports. The issue: how to fill the spot Judas had held among the Twelve. The replacement eventually chosen was a man known to us as St. Matthias.

In announcing nominations for a new apostle, St. Peter told those assembled that he had to be someone who had followed Jesus during his whole ministry, from Baptism to Ascension. But what exactly was this new apostle called to do? To paraphrase a later Christian writer, „it wasn't to be a witness to Jesus' ministry. Nor to His miracles. Rather, he was called to be a “witness to His resurrection,” as the Book of Acts puts it.

Nominations were taken, two names were submitted, and Matthias won on a drawing of lots.

So why is St. Matthias more than just a footnote to the gospel account of the Twelve? Here's why, according to German writer, Otto Hophan, O.F.M. in his book, *The Apostles: "The Apostle Matthias represents the brightening of the darkness, the bridging of an abyss, the beginning of a new epoch. He was not one of the original Twelve. After Judas fell from the ranks of the apostles, Matthias was there to take his place. He became the first apostle chosen after the death of the crucified Christ. ..."*

The apostle Matthias is a source of joy to Christian hearts. It would have been depressing if the noble group of the twelve apostles had ended with the criminal face of Judas. Instead, this gentle and venerable old man closed the ranks of the Twelve. Attention is instinctively turned away from the wretched Judas and directed toward this last, good apostle. How can we, like St. Matthias, be 'witnesses to the resurrection'?

Quote of the Week: *"The eucharistic celebration is the action of Christ himself and the Church. In it, Christ the Lord, through the ministry of the priest, offers himself, substantially present under the species of bread and wine, to God the Father and gives himself as spiritual food to the faithful united with his offering."* Code of Canon Law, Can. 899 §1