

Midleton Parish Newsletter
21st April 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Easter
Day of Prayer for Vocations

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: Dan Lehane, Rosalie Whyte, Dan O'Brien, Tom Savage, Eoin Goode, Liam Stack.

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.

Feast Days: Thursday, 25th April, *St. Mark*, Evangelist. St. Mark was closely connected with the preaching of St. Peter, Paul and Barnabas. His Gospel was probably written at Rome when he was with Paul, and is traditionally viewed as representing St. Peter's approach to the preaching of the good news. Later tradition has him as an interpreter for St. Peter. His symbol is a winged lion.

Quote of the Week: Can. 210 *All the Christian faithful must direct their efforts to lead a holy life and to promote the growth of the Church and its continual sanctification, according to their own condition.*

-1983 Code of Canon Law

Celebration of the Sacraments

Confirmation: This year the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Wednesday May 1st. There will be two ceremonies.

The first one begins at 10am and the girls and boys from Scoil Bhríde, CBS National, and Ballintotis will be receiving the sacrament.

The second one begins at 1pm and the girls and boys from Gaelscoil Mainistir na Corann, St. John the Baptist National School and Educate Together National School will be receiving the sacrament. The celebrant will be Bishop Crean.

(Please note that on this day there will be no funeral masses)

Holy Communion for the First Time: there will be five ceremonies in May.

Saturday, May 4th, Saint John the Baptist and Educate Together @ 10am

Saturday, May 11th, Scoil Bhríde, @ 10am

Saturday, May 18th, CBS National School @ 10am

Saturday, May 25th, Gaelscoil Mainistir na Corainn, @ 11am

Ballintotis National School, St. Colman's Church, Ballintotis. Time and date next week.

The Gaelscoil Mass is at 11am because it will be celebrated in Irish and those who are regular 10am Mass-goers may prefer to celebrate in English. There will be a 10am mass on Saturday 25th for that purpose.

(Please note that on these Saturdays, if there is a funeral, it will have to be celebrated in the afternoon and this arrangement is solely because the times of the ceremonies will remain fixed.)

Please remember all the children who are receiving the sacraments in your prayers. Also pray for their families, teachers, friends and all who are involved in preparing them for the celebration of these special days in their faith journey through life.

Vocations: Last year, on the day of Prayer for Vocations, a special year of prayer for vocations to the priesthood in Ireland began. That comes to an end today. but we would ask you to continue praying for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. As many parts of our country and our diocese can see already, there is a real need for continuing prayer. The number of active priests has been gradually falling but, unless vocations begin to pick up, we will see radical change within a few years.

The age of retirement from active ministry for a priest is 75. In our diocese we have a number of priests who have retired as parish priests but who continue to help out in relation to celebrating Masses. Others are available for cover for Masses in case of need due to holidays or sickness. Their help is deeply appreciated.

In the 'not too distant' future, if we do not get vocations and all the active priests at present are blessed with good health, we will reach a point where there will be 40 priests under 75 actively serving the 46 parishes in the diocese. As we approach that possible scenario, as a parish and as a diocese, we have to explore what can be done to ensure that the Good News of the Gospel will continue to be shared with the people of our parishes and diocese. Parish Pastoral Councils in the diocese, including our own, are beginning to look at what can be done or at least attempted in order to be able to deal with that situation if it arises. Change in how things will be in the light of those figures above will come gradually but with all parishioners and all the faithful of the diocese keeping in mind that there will be changes, they should come over time and not all at once. From prayer and contemplation to active service in different ways everyone can have a part to play to continue the mission entrusted to us all through baptism and confirmation.