

Midleton Parish Newsletter
7th April 2024 – Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy 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 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.

Anniversaries: Oliver Parsons, Sheila Cox, Jane Daly, Jack O’Keeffe, Kathleen Dempsey, Aleksandras Kovaliovas,

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 (unless there is a liturgy taking place in the church after that time).

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.”*

Feast Days: **The Annunciation of the Lord.** Because this year saw the 25th March fall within Holy Week the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord had to be moved to the earliest possible date and because of Holy Week and the Octave of Easter, that falls on this Monday, 8th April. On this day, *“Giving her consent to God’s word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus. Espousing the divine will for salvation wholeheartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and the work of her Son; she did so in order to serve the mystery of redemption with him and dependent on him, by God’s grace” (CCC 494).*

Thursday, April 11th, St. Stanislaus, became bishop of Krakow, Poland, in 1072. His outspoken condemnation of corruption resulted in his murder in 1097.

Saturday, April 13th, St. Martin I. As a deacon he was sent as legate to Constantinople. Elected pope in 649 and died in 655 from harsh treatment in exile and prison.

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

'Five Saints for Easter

Today we will look at two of the saints: St. Peter and St. Thomas:

St. Peter and the Empty Tomb. *After being told by Mary Magdalene and the other women that they had found Jesus' tomb empty, Peter responded in a way that most of us probably would have: he immediately ran off to the tomb to confirm their story. Here is how his reaction is described in Luke 24:12: Peter, however, went off to the tomb, running. He bent down and looked in and saw the linen cloths but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened.*

This description of Peter as 'amazed' at the empty tomb recalls something Pope Saint John Paul II said near the end of his papacy. In an encyclical, John Paul II called for a rekindling of 'Eucharistic amazement.' This Easter season is an opportunity for us to also rekindle our amazement at the resurrection, following the example of St. Peter.

How can we rekindle in our hearts 'amazement' at the resurrection? It's worth pointing out that amazement at the Eucharist and amazement at the resurrection are quite closely related. It goes without saying that without the resurrection we could not receive the gift of the Eucharist. Indeed, the connection is even closer: the original example of Eucharistic amazement cited by John Paul II is the breaking of the bread between Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. This was one of the first appearances of Christ after his resurrection. This offers us a specific way of thinking about the Eucharist—as a way of experiencing the Resurrected Christ.

Doubting Thomas: *"St. Thomas is officially the patron saint of architects, but he must also have a special concern for all those—I imagine many if not all of us—who at some point in our lives have had any doubts about our faith in general, or the resurrection, specifically. The account of how he reacted to news of the resurrection is one that speaks to us across the centuries. According to the Gospel of John, Thomas responded: 'Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'*

When Jesus appeared to St. Thomas and the other disciples, eight days later, he told Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side.' What Jesus said next convinces us still today—Do not be unbelieving any more, but believe. May we, with St. Thomas, exclaim in response: 'My Lord and my God!'"

This weekend we hear that Gospel proclaimed at Mass. Divine Mercy Sunday is another name for the Second Sunday of Easter and it ties in with Jesus being open and merciful to all. St. Thomas doubted because he hadn't seen. Jesus showed mercy to him 'eight days later' by giving him the opportunity to get a very definite view of, and the possibility to touch, his wounds.

We are called to believe in the sign of the empty tomb and the reality of the risen Christ complete with wounds without having the direct experiences that St. Peter and St. Thomas had. Both of them dedicated their lives to preaching the Good News and we pray that we too will bear witness to that Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the reality of God's love and mercy offered to all.

Quote of the Week: *The Resurrection is God's "Amen!" to Christ's statement, "It is finished."*

- S. Lewis Johnson