

Midleton Parish Newsletter
5th May 2024 – Sixth 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: This week the Parish Office is closed on Monday 6th (Bank Holiday) and is open Tuesday 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 this week - Monday (Bank Holiday) 10am only; Tuesday to Friday 8am and 10am. Saturday 10am.

This Monday, 6th, is a Bank Holiday and there will be no 8am Mass on that day.

Anniversaries: Sr. Vincent (nee Kitty O'Brien), Billy Hogan, Cian Twomey Walsh, Mary Guerin, Pat Roche, Sheila Spillane, Paddy Keogh, Patrick (Paddy) Foley.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel: 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 May 2024: For the Formation of Religious and Seminarians: *"We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel."*

Confirmation Ceremonies: On Wednesday last, the Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in two ceremonies, 10am and 1pm. We congratulate all who received the sacrament on the day. Let us keep them in our prayers and may they continue their faith journey guided by the Spirit of God and in the light of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all who helped in any way in the preparation of those who received the sacrament. A special thank you to Bishop Crean who made both ceremonies so special for all of us.

Holy Communion for the First Time: We congratulate the pupils from St. John the Baptist National School and Educate Together National School who received Holy Communion for the first time this weekend. Thank you to all who helped in any way in their preparation for receiving the Eucharist for the first time. May the children and their families be strengthened by Jesus, received in Holy Communion, and grow in faith, hope and love.

Dates of the other ceremonies during the month of May:

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. The ceremony will be on Saturday 18th May.

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.

Visiting Choir: This Saturday evening, we welcome a choir from Galway for the Vigil Mass. "Vox Orbis" are a female choral ensemble founded in 2019 and directed by Mr. Mark Keane.

Feast Days: Friday, May 10th, *St. John of Avila*, 1499-1569. Priest and doctor of the Church. He is honoured as apostle of Andalusia in Spain and renowned for his preaching and his quest for the renewal of Christian life.

Quote of the Week: *"The small word 'as' is one of the most important in the Bible"*

- Fr. Nigel Woollen "The Father Wants to Heal You" p.77

I came across this quote during the week while reading Fr. Woollen's book. The book has a sub-heading, 'A Retreat with the Lord's Prayer', and is the result of his reflection on the 'Our Father' and what it means. Usually, the quotes we see focus on a particular subject or topic but this sentence struck me because it highlights how one small word can be so effective in teaching or highlighting something important.

In the 'Our Father' we come across it twice – firstly, in the petition 'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven' and, secondly, 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. There is plenty to reflect on in those two petitions that we pray every time we pray the 'Our Father'.

Shortly after reading this sentence in the book, I began looking at the readings for this Sunday to prepare for preaching after the Gospel and what jumped out at me was the word 'as' again!

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.'

'If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.'

'Love one another, as I have loved you.'

Then the Gospel continues with Jesus developing those three statements as he speaks to his disciples.

The 'small word' as allows us to see how we are called to live in the light of our faith in the God who 'is love'.

I decided to share this with you to highlight the importance of realising that no matter how often we look at scripture, reflect on a passage or engage with a prayer there is never a time when we can say that we have come to the end of exploring what is offered to us. The Spirit is constantly prompting us through the experiences we have to listen with fresh ears and look with fresh eyes and bring the message of God's love and mercy to the world around us in fresh ways, cutting through the 'noise' of a world that, more and more, is moving away from the 'good news' of the Lord and focusing on the 'I'.