

**CLERGY:**

V. Rev. Canon Fitzgerald P.P., V.F. Phone: 025-84090.  
V. Rev. Canon O'Leary P.E., C.C. Phone: 025-84088.  
Rev. Fr. Burke C.C. Phone: 025-84077.  
Parish Office: Phone: 025-84062.

**Canon Fitzgerald is on Sick Call this week;**

**Phone Number: 087 - 2524979**

**PARISH OFFICE E-MAIL: [mitchelstownparishoffice@eircom.net](mailto:mitchelstownparishoffice@eircom.net)**

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY**

***Office Open: 9 am to 12 noon – Monday to Friday.***

**Parish Website: [www.mitchelstownparish.ie](http://www.mitchelstownparish.ie)**

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council is [mitchelstownppc@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownppc@gmail.com)

**Also on Facebook – Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council**

**Little Christmas:**

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January, is the FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.** It's a Holyday of Obligation. **Vigil Mass Tuesday Evening 7.30pm.**

**Masses on Wednesday in the Parish Church, as on Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.00noon & 7.30pm.**

**Ballygiblin: 9.30am**

**Killacluig: 10.30am**

**Weekday Masses:** Apart from Wednesday at usual times 8.30am & 10.00am

**Morning Prayer:** 8.00am

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

**Eucharistic Healing Hour:** Thursday evening **8.00pm – 9.00pm**, with Special Prayer for World Peace, Reflections on the life of St. Pio, Eucharistic Healing Blessing and blessing with the relic of St. Pio.

**Baptism of the Lord:** This Feast is celebrated next Sunday.

**Envelope System:** The 2016 Envelopes come into operation this weekend. We thank those who use the system. The tax refund is of great benefit to the parish. We strongly encourage you to continue the system. If you would like to join the system, please contact the Parish Office. All offerings, no matter how they are given, are greatly appreciated.

# Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

*Volume: 7 Issue: 28 Date: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016*

**2016 Begins:**

We look back at 2015 with gratitude, we look forward with hope to 2016. We face the future with utter confidence, because the Lord is with us every moment of everyday. We know we are getting older with every new year and, as we say, some of us are moving on. We remember the words of the Gospel of St. John: “Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid, trust in God still, I have prepared a place for you.” No matter what our age, this is a key promise of Jesus. We are moving ahead on a journey to the Kingdom of Glory. Here, we have no lasting city, whatever good we can do, let us do it while we are able and we take nothing with us except our fulfilment of the will of God and our good deeds.

We are now entering the Centenary of the events of Fatima. The culmination of the centenary of these extra-ordinary events will take place on October, 13<sup>th</sup> 2017. But 2016 marks the centenary of the visitation of an Angel, three times, to the three children, Lucia, Jacinta & Francesco. He prepared the three children for the incredible apparitions of Our Lady in 1917 and the events associated with them. The children had to learn to pray much, make sacrifice and be devoted to the Holy Eucharist. Perhaps at the beginning of this year we could read and reflect on these inspiring events.

May God go with you all into this New Year, may He transform your life and fill you with His joy.

**1916-2016:**

For all Irish men and women this is also the centenary of the events of the 1916 Rising. For generations, Irish people longed for their independence. The events of the 1916 Easter Rising led to the shedding of much human blood and the loss of many lives. But out of the suffering and chaos was born Irish Independence. The events took place in the Dublin G.P.O. on April 26<sup>th</sup> 1916 and continued for several days. Many Irish people at that time aspired to independence from English Rule and it led to a painful conflict and a lot of suffering. Many historians will analyse the events, but we can rejoice in the benefits received. The leaders for the drive for independence were Catholics and they aspired to freedom for Catholic believers. Catholic believers had long been persecuted and lived their faith with great courage, despite the opposition. As we reflect on the centenary of these life changing events in our country, maybe it is time again to take hold of our right as Catholics to proclaim what we believe while respecting those who view things differently to us. We remember this year those who died and suffered for the freedoms we now enjoy. Let no one take those freedoms from us.

**Pope Francis:** “I am a sinner, I feel sinful, I am sure of it. I am a forgiven man, God has looked on me with mercy and forgiven me.” Pope Francis recently added to these words “I still sin and I go to Confession every 15 or 20 days, because I need to feel that God’s mercy is still upon me.”

