

V. Rev. Canon Fitzgerald P.P., V.F.  
V. Rev. Canon O'Leary P.E., C.C.  
Rev. Fr. Burke C.C.  
Parish Office – Patricia Dwane:

**CLERGY:**  
Phone: 025-84090.  
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Phone: 025-84062. **Open 9am-12pm**

**Fr. Burkeis on Sick Call this week;**

**Phone Number: 087 – 2524979**

**PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS: [mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com)**

**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 [mitchelstownpnc@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownpnc@gmail.com)

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

● **Advent Prayer:** This Sunday Evening in the Parish Church at **5.00pm** with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We invite you and your family to participate during the Sundays of Advent.

● **Feast of the Immaculate Conception:** Friday next, December 8<sup>th</sup>, it is a Holy Day of Obligation. **Vigil Mass:** Parish Church Thursday Evening at 7.30pm. Masses in all three Churches on Friday as Sunday, including 7.30pm Mass Friday Evening.

● **The Diocesan Religious Purposes Collection** will be taken up today after Holy Communion.

● **Collection for Flowers:** The Annual Collection for flowers on the Altars will be taken up at all Masses **next Sunday**. We thank all those in the Parish who do such wonderful work in decorating the Church Altars throughout the year.

● **Youth 2000 Retreat:** Next weekend in Newbridge for 16-35 year olds. See over the page for more details.

#### **Church of Our Lady Conceived Without Sin, Mitchelstown:**

**MASS TIMES:** Saturday & Eve of Holy Day: 7.30pm  
Sunday & Holy Day: 8.30am, 11.30am & 7.30pm.  
Weekdays: 8.30am & 10.00am

**FIRST FRIDAYS:** 8.30am, 10.00am & 7.30pm.

**Bank Holidays:** 11am

**MORNING PRAYER:** Monday – Friday: 8.00am

**ROSARY:** Monday – Saturday: 9.45am

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

Eve of First Fridays & Eve of Holy Days: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

**We encourage families to practice monthly Confession**

**EUCHARISTIC HEALING PRAYERS:** Thursday evening after 7.30pm  
Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception.

**DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS:** Friday at **3.00pm**. All welcome.

#### **Church of the Holy Family, Ballygiblin**

**MASS TIMES:** Sunday & Holy Day: **9.30am**. First Friday: **7.30pm**.

**CONFESSIONS:** First Friday: **7.00pm**.

#### **St. Joseph's Church, Killaclug**

**MASS TIMES:** Sunday & Holy Day: **10.30am**. First Friday: **6.30pm**.

**CONFESSIONS:** First Friday: **6.00pm**.

## Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

**Volume: 9**

**Issue: 23 Date: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**

**ADVENT – CHRISTMAS – EPIPHANY:** Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Advent begins with First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Sunday that falls on or closest to November 30 and it ends before First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of Christmas.

The Sundays of this time of year are named the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays of Advent.

The weekdays from December 17 up to and including December 24 are ordered in a more direct way to preparing for the Nativity of the Lord.

Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and of hope:

- waiting-memory of the first, humble coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh; waiting-supplication for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and universal Judge;
- conversion, to which the Liturgy at this time often refers quoting the prophets, especially John the Baptist, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 3:2);
- joyful hope that the salvation already accomplished by Christ (cf. Rm 8:24–25) and the reality of grace in the world, will mature and reach their fullness, thereby granting us what is promised by faith, and "we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is" (John 3:2).

**The Blessed Virgin Mary and Advent:** The Liturgy frequently celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary in an exemplary way during the season of Advent (Cf. Paul VI, Marialis Cultus 4). It recalls the women of the Old Testament who prefigured and prophesied her mission; it exalts her faith and the humility with which she promptly and totally submitted to God's plan of salvation; it highlights her presence in the events of grace preceding the birth of the Saviour. Popular piety also devotes particular attention to the Blessed Virgin Mary during Advent, as is evident from the many pious exercises practised at this time, especially the novena of the Immaculate Conception and of Christmas.

However, the significance of Advent, "that time which is particularly apt for the cult of the Mother of God" (Cf. Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation Marialis Cultus 4), is such that it cannot be represented merely as a "Marian month".

**The Advent Wreath:** Placing four candles on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes, especially in the Germanic countries and in North America. The Advent wreath, with the progressive lighting of its four candles, Sunday after Sunday, until the Solemnity of Christmas, is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of justice (cf. Mt 3,20; Lk 1,78).

**Coláiste Fionnchua (St. Fanahan's College) TY Table Quiz** – on **Next Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December** at **7pm**, at the **Firgrove Hotel**, Mitchelstown. Teams of 4 - €20. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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**'Lights of Love Remembrance Tree'** - The Christmas season is a time to celebrate our blessings with family and friends, and also serves as a time to join together with them in remembering friends and loved ones who are sadly no longer with us. Fermoy Community Health Project in association with the Fermoy Committee of Cork Mental Health cordially invite you to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Lights of Love - Remembrance Tree' event, at which you may, if you wish, sponsor a light to remember your loved one by making a €5 donation. For your donation, you will receive a unique 'Lights of Love' Christmas Remembrance Card for each light sponsored, and you can also make a named dedication which will be placed in our special memory frame. This event takes place **on Today, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 5 - 6pm in the Resource Centre, Fermoy**. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend.

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**Mitchelstown Day Care Centre** would greatly appreciate some help in the lead up to Christmas. Please email [info@volunteercork.ie](mailto:info@volunteercork.ie) or call 021 4251572 for more information.

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**Youth 2000** invites all **young adults** between ages of 16-35 to a Catholic weekend retreat taking place from **8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017** at Newbridge College, Co. Kildare. This will be an exciting weekend attracting over 600 young people from all over the country.

The weekend is being organised by young people for young people. Parental consent is essential for all those under 18. All meals are provided for and accommodation is on site!

**Don't let money be an obstacle**; just bring a donation and a sleeping bag. **Newcomers very welcome!** There will be **free buses** picking up from various areas throughout the country. **Booking is essential**. For more information on the event or to book your place, see [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie), **Youth 2000 Ireland Facebook page** or **Tel: 00353 (0) 1 6753690**

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**One day CPR and Defibrillator Training** will take place on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Anyone interested please contact Michelle on 085-1502008. Spaces are limited so please book early. Booking is required.

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**Mitchelstown Carmelite Lourdes Group** presents **Christmas Cracker Dance** with Crystal Swing and Jimmy O'Donoghue & Band on **Saturday night 30<sup>th</sup> December** at the Firgrove Hotel. Admission €15. Doors open at 8.30pm.

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**The Nuns at St. Benedict's Priory**, The Mount, Cobh invite you to their **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. 2pm-5pm**. Homemade produce, Christmas gifts and decorations, Stalls, Grand Draw, Santa will be in attendance! Admission €3 includes tea and cake.

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**Date for your diary**:-\* Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council cordially invite you to their **\*CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE\*** - 'Carols by Candlelight' - in Mitchelstown Parish Church on **\*Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm\***, featuring **Mitchelstown Brass Band**. We look forward to seeing you.

**CBS Primary 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Carol Singers** will be at the Foyer of the Firgrove Hotel on this Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, to greet our Senior Citizens, as they gather for their Annual Christmas Party. The boys will also perform for all at Tearnann Ui Chaoimh nearer to the Big Day. The Carol Singers will be outside Supervalu on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** in conjunction with a Bucket Collection (Garda permit granted) in aid of **Mitchelstown St. Vincent de Paul Society**. C.B.S. Primary looks forward to your continuing support, carrying on a tradition which is now spanning over 3 decades.

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#### **P.T.A.A. Private Members Draw Results Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:**€1000 L. Mackle, Drogheda, Co. Louth

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:**€400 A. Friel, Mervue, Co. Galway

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:**€200 C. Malone, Geashill, Offaly

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize:**€100 J. Regan, Longwood, Co. Meath

Six Promoters Prizes of €40 each; ● S. McDermott, Co. Fermanagh. ● M. Keane, Co.

Donegal. ● P. McHugh, Co. Mayo ● S. O'Kane, Co. Tyrone ● J. Regan, Co. Meath

● S. Murray, Co. Leitrim. **The next draw will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017**. Local promoter John (087) 6477897.

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**Society of St. Vincent Paul:** Our Society wish to sincerely thank all who subscribed so generously to our Annual Christmas Collection last weekend. It was very successful and will help us make Christmas a little brighter for so many families and individuals. Our thanks also, to our Clergy, our Sacristans and Collectors, who were so co-operative. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the year, and to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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**Coffee Morning In memory of Pat Maher:** The Fermoy Committee of Cork Mental Health are hosting a coffee morning in memory of well-known Psychotherapist Pat Maher. Pat provided counselling and psychological services to individuals, Families and organisations in the Fermoy and North Cork area since 1995. The Fermoy Committee of Cork Mental Health would like to invite you to join them for **Coffee & Chat in the Dance Hall of Fermoy Youth Centre, Ashe Quay on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 11am - 1pm**. To support your mental health and well-being the services that are available locally will be present. Profits from this event will be donated to Diadhuit Suicide Prevention Ireland in Pat Maher's memory.

*Together let's keep the conversation going and remind everyone that "It's Ok not to be OK, and it's absolutely OK to ask for help."*

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**T.O. Park Christmas Variety Show** – fast moving followed by Christmas Dance – Band The Checkers, followed by Big Disco in the **Firgrove Hotel, Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7.45pm sharp**. Free Tea – Coffee – Biscuits. Admission €10. Bumper Raffle. Fundraiser for upgrade of barn toilets.

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The AGM of **Mitchelstown Church Flower Group** will be held on **Tuesday next 5<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm in the Town Hall**. New members always welcome.

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**Carols at Lismore Castle Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> & Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**. For tickets contact Lismore Heritage Centre 076-1102157 or Choir Member Delia Tobin 087 – 092 78 78