

V. Rev. Canon Fitzgerald P.P., V.F.  
V. Rev. Canon O'Leary P.E., C.C.  
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Phone: 025-84090.  
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**Fr. Burkeis on Sick Call this week;**

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

