

CLERGY:

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Canon O'Leary is 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.

- **First Holy Communion in Ballygiblin:** Next Sunday, 13th May. Mass will be at the later time of 10.30am. We ask you all to support the boys and girls and their families and to pray for the.
- **Bus to Knock:** On Sunday NEXT, May 13th. Names to the Sacristy.
- Next Sunday is the **Feast of the Ascension of the Lord** and is **World Communications Day**.
- **CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION:** The Procession will take place on **Sunday, June 3rd**. A meeting to organise the Procession will be held on **Tuesday, May 8th at 6.30pm in the Parish Church Sacristy**. Anyone who would like to help, are more than welcome to attend.

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

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

EUCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR: Thursday evening at 8.00pm – 9.00pm
with Special Prayers for the Protection of Life and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

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, Killacluig

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

CONFESSIONS: First Friday: 6.00pm.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

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Issue: 43 Date: Sunday 6th May 2018

Bishop Crean & Abortion Debate: In less than three weeks' time (May 25th), the Irish people face a crucial decision, on whether to retain or repeal the 8th amendment of our Constitution. The Amendment declares: **“The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right”**.

The Supreme Court recently declared that the above is the only legal protection that the unborn now have in our Country. To vote ‘Yes’ to repeal that Amendment, will take away all legal protection from the unborn and thus lead to the legalisation of abortion in our Country, in our hospitals and through the establishment of abortion clinics. By voting ‘No’, we will continue as a Country to protect mothers and their unborn children.

Bishop Crean has issued a Pastoral Letter on this very important matter this weekend and to be presented at Masses over the next three weekends. He had divided the letter into three sections: Debate, Discernment & Decision. In the 1st section on debate, he refers to politicians changing their minds on the grounds of compassion. The Bishop states that compassion is a noble and desirable virtue that all true Christians seek in the face of distress. The question it raises in this context: “Is it right and just to extend compassion to one at the cost of life to another? Compassion that injures another’s life to the point of death is flawed, if well intentioned compassion. Is it just? Is it fair to do so?” In the 1st section of his letter on “Debate”, the Bishop states “The decision we face is one of conscience. This entails taking time and effort to ensure that our conscience is properly informed. In the absence of this process, we risk arriving at a decision that is superficial and poorly grounded. For example, there are many people of faith and practice, who feel that while they personally are pro-life, they do not wish to stand in the way of those who believe that abortion is morally acceptable. On what grounds can one justify collusion with actions that you find morally repugnant? On what basis can you justify facilitating actions that in conscience you believe to be wrong?”

Copies of the Bishop’s letter are available today. **On Thursday next May 10th we begin 40th Hours Solemn Eucharistic Adoration. It will begin with Mass at 7.30pm, the Main Celebrant will be Fr. Marius O'Reilly, and continue through Thursday night, Friday, Friday night and Saturday and conclude with Saturday evening Mass at 7.30pm.** Each Station Area has been allotted an hour. Please take home a leaflet today and pass the time of your area to your neighbours and friends.

May the Lord protect and guide the Irish people at this critical hour. May lives of our future generations are at risk.

Mitchelstown Carmelite Lourdes Group - Afternoon Tea Dance: Joe Cooke Band & Jimmy O'Donoghue and his Band. Firgrove Hotel, **THIS Sunday, 6th May, 3pm-6pm.**

