

**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.

**Fr. Burke is 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

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

**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 & 7.30.m.

**Bank Holidays:** 11am

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

**EUCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR:** Thursday evening at **8.00pm – 9.00pm** with prayers for families, special prayers for healing and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

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

**ADVENT EVENING PRAYER** at 5.00pm this Sunday. You are invited to join in the prayer to prepare for Christmas. The prayer with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**On Sunday Next (Dec 18<sup>th</sup>) at 5.00pm,** the Parish Pastoral Council have organised a **Special Parish Carol Service** in preparation for Christmas and you are all invited to attend.

**CONFESSIONS IN PARISH CHURCH:**

Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

**Penitential Rite (with eight Priests for Confession) on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.**

**Confessions in Ballygiblin:**

Next Thursday evening, 15<sup>th</sup> December, at 7.00pm, Mass at 7.30pm

**Confessions in Killacluig:**

Next Friday evening, 16<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.00pm, Mass at 6.30pm.

**ALTAR SOCIETY:** The Annual Collection for flowers to decorate the Altar throughout the year will be taken up at all Masses today after Holy Communion. Your support is a great help to the work of the Altar Society and gives special honour to the Lord.

# Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

**Volume: 8**

**Issue: 24 Date: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Jesus brings Comfort & Joy:** We have come to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – the theme of this Sunday is Joy. John the Baptist had prepared the people to repent of their sins, before Jesus appeared. In today's Gospel, John is in an underground dark prison cell. It may be that John was thinking; when is Jesus going to start on action? When is he going to blast His enemies? When is the day of God's holy destruction to begin? It may well be that John was impatient with Jesus, because He was not what he expected Him to be. The man, who waits for savage wrath, will always be disappointed in Jesus, but the man who looks for love, will never find his hopes defeated. The challenge of Jesus is still the same, He does not so much say, "Listen to what I have to tell you", as, "Look what I can do for you; see what I have done for others". Jesus answered John's disciples quest in today's Gospel: "Go back and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the good news is proclaimed to the poor, and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me". Jesus came to lift the burdens of mankind. Jesus comes in to the brokenness of our lives. Jesus brings love, healing and hope. This is what He is bringing this Sunday; let us turn to Him with faith and hope.

**Forrest Hall:** The opening of Forrest Hall on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> last was for many a dream come true. Like many buildings and shops in the Town, it remained closed and useless. You must all go to see the beautiful facility that it now has become, located right in the centre of the Town. For years we waited for the Leisure Centre, but now we enjoy this great successful facility. The Forrest Hall now adds to the progress of much needed facilities in the Town. It is a great time for the community and we thank all those persevering and hardworking volunteers who are making great things happen among us. Canon O'Leary led the official blessing along with Canon Fitzgerald, Fr. Burke and Canon Tom Sherlock (Kingston College). The County Mayor, Seamus McGrath, performed the official opening and commended everyone involved for an incredible achievement. He gave special appreciation to Seán Finn, Chairperson of the Community Council and appreciation to the members of the local Forrest Hall Committee. Seán Finn, as Chairperson, thanked a whole host of people, including local Councillors, the staff of Cork County Council, local Gardaí, Clann Credo, local contractor, Tús Workers, donors, neighbours to Forrest Hall and the generous services of a local engineer.

A Centenary Plaque to mark the Centenary of the 1916 Rising was also unveiled by Councillor, Frank O'Flynn, Chairperson of the Centenary Commemoration Events. The James Fitzgerald Memorial Band added to the joy of the day.

The community is already seeing the benefits of Forrest Hall, as the new home of the Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services under Brian Williams & Staff. Cork ETB worker Nuala White & staff will also use the centre. Both organisations will be an invaluable support to the young people of Mitchelstown. Congratulations to all. Let us thank the Lord.

**C.B.S. Primary Carol Singers** - following on from their appearance at the Senior Citizens Christmas Party in the Firgrove Hotel recently, they will perform for the Senior Citizens at Tearmann Uí Chaoimh on **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December**. Then, on **Next Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December**, they will be performing outside **Supervalu, New Square**, Mitchelstown. School Staff and Friends will be around town with a bucket collection in aid of the Local Branch of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, (Gardaí permit granted). This Carol Singing is a tradition which has long been carried out by the school. Thanks in advance to all the businesses and people of Mitchelstown, who have always been so supportive.

\*\*\*

**Bel Canto Choir** present – ' Help Light Up Mitchelstown this Christmas, a wonderful concert of traditional and modern Christmas songs. Starring Bunscoil Na Toirbhirte, CBS Primary School, Presentation Secondary School, St Fanahan's College and Eamon Walsh from CBS Secondary School. It's on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm** in **The Firgrove Hotel**. Tickets are €12 or €10 to OAP and children under 12. There will also be light refreshments. Tickets available from The Favourite & Scullery and Hyland's Bookshop and any member of Bel Canto Choir. All proceeds to the Mitchelstown Christmas Lights Fund

\*\*\*

**TRÓCAIRE:** Are you interested in supporting the work of Trócaire in the Diocese of Cloyne? Trócaire is looking for volunteers to bring social justice issues alive at parish level. Further information from Fr Tom McDermott (Trócaire Representative, Diocese of Cloyne) 086 1615216

fathertommcd@gmail.com or Sinead.morgan@trocaire.org 021-4275622  
This parish volunteer initiative is not being driven from a fundraising perspective, but rather from a place of raising awareness with people in parishes of the work we do with their support, and the difference it makes. During the seasons of Lent and Advent in particular, parish volunteers will support Trócaire's existing fundraising campaigns as a natural part of their role as parish volunteers.

\*\*\*

**St. Fanahan's College TY Table Quiz** – on **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December** at **7pm**, at the **Firgrove Hotel**, Mitchelstown. Teams of 4 - €20. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

\*\*\*

#### **St. Joseph's Young Priests Society**

Meeting this Monday, **12<sup>th</sup> December**, at **7 p.m.** In **Marian Hall, Convent Hill**.

*New Members always welcome*

\*\*\*

**Killacluig Church** - There will be Choir at Mass on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December and a choir practice will take place afterwards for Christmas. Come along if you'd like to join in for Christmas. Contact Caitriona on 0863760487. All welcome. The more the merrier!! Musicians and singers welcome. Well done to our new organist Miriam Coughlan who has just joined us recently.

The **Irish Blood Transfusion Service** will hold a Blood Donor clinic in **The Firgrove Hotel, MITCHELSTOWN**.

**Monday, 5pm - 8.30pm & Tuesday, 3pm - 5pm & 7pm - 9pm**  
**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Blood Donation is essential to ensure Hospital Patients get the treatment they need. One Donation can save up to 3 Lives.  
Full details of all clinics and on Giving Blood can be found on [www.giveblood.ie](http://www.giveblood.ie) or by telephoning 021 4807400 or 1850 731 137.

\*\*\*

**St Fanahan's Parents Council** wish to **thank** everyone who supported their Cookery Demo in association with O'Crualaoi's Fermoy, last Friday night. A great night was had by all with wonderful food and fun provided by Joe and Paul from O'Crualaoi's. We would like to thank O'Crualaoi's, the Firgrove Hotel, The Avondhu, Students, and the many businesses and people who sponsored us on the night and for the many Raffle prizes donated, we really appreciate all the support and generosity. Here's to the next Cookery Demo!! Merry Christmas to you and yours from St. Fanahan's Parents Council.

\*\*\*

**Carol Service, Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** in Kingston College Chapel. All welcome.

\*\*\*

Get your **Christmas Reading** at the Vincent de Paul Shop, Thomas Street. Special selection of Christmas books, adults and children's all at 50c. Enquires to 025-84733.

\*\*\*

The **Parish Office** will be **closed for the Christmas Holidays from Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**.

**Anyone wishing to advertise in the Parish Newsletter for weeks – 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January, please have your articles into the Parish Office no later than 10am Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December.** We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Newsletter during 2016 and look forward to dealing with you in 2017.

*Wishing you all a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2017.*

\*\*\*

**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 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**, featuring Mitchelstown Brass Band. We look forward to seeing you.

\*\*\*

**TEAMHOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL:** 3722 Gift packed boxes from Mitchelstown / Fermoy area, this figure has increased by 458, left 30<sup>th</sup> November for Romania. We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU**, to all who donated a box, the school children, the staff, parents and the public. We would also like to say thank you, to our drop off points, Ozanam Centre, Farrell's Supervalu and Price Savers. 3722 Happy faces on Christmas morning thanks to your kindness, so until next year, Beannacht Nollaig agus go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.