

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.
Phone: 025-84088.
Phone: 025-84077.
Phone: 025-84062. **Open 9am-12pm**

Canon Fitzgerald is on Sick Call this week;

Phone Number: 087 – 2524979

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS: mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com
DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY

- At the end of Mass today, there will be a blessing of the Statues of the Infant Jesus.
- **Confession in Ballygiblin after Mass this morning.**
- **Confession in Killacluig after Mass this morning.**

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 8.00-9.00pm
with prayers for families, special prayers for healing and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

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, Killacluig

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

CONFESSIONS: First Friday: 6.00pm.

There are many Volunteers within the Parish of Mitchelstown, Ballygiblin & Killacluig, who contribute to the running of the Parish throughout the year. We also wish to acknowledge a number of Volunteers from outside the Parish and we are very grateful to them. In appreciation of their services, the Priests of the Parish will celebrate a

**Mass Of Thanksgiving
in the Parish Church**

on Saturday, 13th January at 7.30pm.

The Priests and People of the Parish wish to invite All Volunteers to join with them in the Celebration of this Mass, followed by refreshments in the Forrest Hall, New Square, Mitchelstown.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 9

Issue: 25 Date: Sunday 17th December 2017

Not One Critical Voice:

While we are preparing to celebrate the Birthday of the Baby Jesus, our Saviour from darkness, some of our politicians are preparing to persuade the Irish people to remove the States acknowledgement of the right to life of the unborn. They want to change our hospitals from being lifesaving to becoming destroyers of life. And there's not one critical voice in our States media. Almost 35 years ago, the Irish pro-life movement seeing what happened in the courts in England and America, lobbied our politicians to hold a referendum to include a protection amendment in our Constitution for the unborn. On September 7th 1983, 67% of Irish voters, voted in favour of that Amendment. The Irish people did not want what happened through the Courts in England and America to happen here. Since that time it is estimated that 50 million abortions have taken place in America and 10 million in England. And despite this holocaust of the unborn and despite all the evidence of science and technology of the reality of the life of the unborn in the womb, our Oireachtas Committee in the Dáil this week want the Irish people to vote for the same here. It is shameful. But they can't do it without the consent of the Irish people. The inclusion of the pro-life Amendment in our Constitution was sought in the early eighties because the pro-life people knew the politicians and the courts couldn't be trusted. In the pro-life 8th Amendment of our Constitution, the Irish people took it out of their hands. They now want to persuade us to give it back to them. The Irish people are going to be put to the test like never before. Because there is not objective, critical or truthful media, we will have to do some very serious, single minded thinking ourselves. The following quotation from St. John Paul II might help us: "And so I say to all, have an absolute and holy respect for the sacredness of human life from the first moment of its conception. Abortion, as the Vatican Council stated, is one of the "abominable crimes" (Gaudium et Spes, 51). To attack unborn life at any moment from its conception is to undermine the whole moral order which is the true guardian of the well-being of man. The defence of the absolute inviolability of unborn life is part of the defence of human rights and human dignity. May Ireland never weaken in her witness, before Europe and before the whole world, to the dignity and sacredness of all human life, from conception until death". (St. John Paul's parting words to the Irish in Limerick October 1st, 1979).

We must think and reflect like never before, because we live in a time of fake news and many lies. May the Infant of Bethlehem and His Holy Mother & Blessed St. Joseph bring light to the Irish people this Christmas and dispel the darkness of deception.

