

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 9

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CLERGY:

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V. Rev. Canon O'Leary P.E., C.C. Phone: 025-84088.
Rev. Fr. Burke C.C. Phone: 025-84077.
Parish Office – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062. **Open 9am-12pm**

Fr. Burke is on Sick Call this week;

Phone Number: 087 – 2524979

PARISH MAIL ADDRESS:

- **Holy Hour for the protection of life:** This Sunday 2.30pm – 3.30pm including the Stations of the Cross, in the Parish Church.
- **Bank Holiday:** Monday is a Bank Holiday, Mass at 11.00am only.
- **Next Sunday is Palm Sunday:** Palms will be blessed at all Masses.
- **Two Hearts Retreat:** In the Firgrove Hotel, next Saturday and Sunday, led by Fr. Bing. All welcome.
- **HOLY WEEK:** The Programme for Holy Week will be delivered to all homes in the Parish in the coming week. We would really appreciate the help of the distributors, **they will be ready for collection from the Parish Office from Wednesday. Keep in your diary the Penitential Service on Monday week, March 26th.**
- **CHRISM MASS IN COBH:** In the Cathedral on Wednesday Evening, March 28th at 7.30pm. A bus will leave the Square in Mitchelstown at 6.00pm. Names to be given in Parish Office.

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 HOUR: Thursday evening at 8.00pm – 9.00pm with reflections on Holy Week 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, Killaclug

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

CONFESSIONS: First Friday: 6.00pm.

ABORTION AND THE PRINCIPLE OF DOUBLE EFFECT:

In pro-abortion rhetoric of recent times, there has been an attempt to hide the reality that Ireland is currently one of the safest places in the world for pregnant women. It has falsely asserted that the Eight Amendment to the Constitution puts pregnant women in danger on a daily basis and that should a pregnant woman become fatally ill, the life of the unborn child would be placed above hers, when it came to selecting a medical treatment. This is not true. While it is true that an abortion (the direct and intentional killing of a child in the womb) may not be carried out as though it were a medical treatment, there is a long-standing principle that would allow actual medical treatments to be given to the mother even though they may also lead to the death of her baby as an unintended consequence. This is called the Principle of Double Effect, and has long been enshrined in both medical ethics, as well as Catholic moral teaching.

The meaning of this principle is very simple. Whenever any action is carried out it may have multiple effects, some good and some bad i.e. it can have double effects. As long as the intended outcome is itself a good one, then the other bad effect may be tolerated, because, tragic as they may be, they are not actually intended. In the case where a pregnant woman is fatally ill and the only medicine / treatment that can cure her is one that will, at the same time, unintentionally cause the death of her child, then that treatment may be chosen and administered. Our laws as they stand allow this and, as Catholics, we do not consider it sinful or wrong for it to be done. In the case of abortion, however, the direct intention of the procedure itself is the death of the child, not the treatment of the illness endangering the mother. Even though the death of the child might somehow bring about circumstances in which the mother might recover, it can never be permitted, because it involves the direct and intentional killing of another human being, which is always end everywhere wrong. Pregnancy is not an illness or a disease and genuine medical treatment can never involve the taking of life.

The case of a fatally ill pregnant woman is one often cited by pro-abortion activists. However, it is telling that the only case they ever refer to, that of the late Savita Halappanavar is one that in no way supports their argument, although they have worked hard to convince us otherwise. The official inquiry conducted after her death concluded that an abortion would have done nothing to avert her death, which was caused by sepsis of the blood, with some doctors stating that it would have actually hastened it. The Savita case, with its facts distorted, is the only one they refer to because there are no real cases to support their claim. Ireland is a safe place for pregnant mothers and their unborn babies. Meanwhile, there is silence from these same groups regarding the cases of various women who have died following abortions at established and regulated clinics in the UK.

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