

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 8

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CLERGY:

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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

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council is

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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

EUCCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR: Thursday evening at **8.00pm – 9.00pm** with special prayers for peace and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

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

On THIS Sunday (Dec 18th) 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. It will be a valuable time of prayer and reflection.

CONFESSIONS IN PARISH CHURCH:

Penitential Rite (with eight Priests for Confession) on tomorrow, Monday, December 19th at 7.30pm. The prayers will be led by Redemptorist, Fr. Bernard Jones.

Confessions on Friday: 12.00 – 1.00pm

Confessions on Saturday (Christmas Eve): 12.00-1.00pm & 3.00 – 4.00pm

We encourage you all to receive the Sacrament in preparation for Christmas.

Life's Like That

John's business had just gone bust, yet thieves broke in at night, hauled him from the bed, and declared "We are looking for your money".

"Turn on the light" said John, "and I will look with you".

"When you have accomplished your daily task, go to bed in peace; God is awake". V. Hugo

Come to my Aid St. Joseph: As we come to the 4th Sunday of Advent, we are met with the troubles of St. Joseph. He was engaged and betrothed to Mary. This period usually lasted a year before they got married and lived together. It was during this period that Mary received the apparition of the Angel Gabriel and that Mary Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. When St. Joseph learned of the pregnancy, he must have become very distressed. He was so distressed, in fact, that he had decided to break off the engagement/betrothal, which at this time was legally binding. He had decided to do it quietly and not in public, in order to save Mary public shame. This was how serious Joseph's situation was and how troubling it must have been for him. It was in the midst of this distress that the Angel came to Joseph in his dream and told him not to be afraid to marry Mary, because she had conceived by the Holy Spirit. He revealed to him that she was expecting a son and he was to give Him the name Jesus, because He was to be Saviour of his people. The distress of Joseph lifted and he obeyed the Voice of the Angel. He married Mary and she gave birth to Jesus our Saviour. It demanded great faith and humility from Mary and Joseph and it must have been humanly very difficult for them both. When we are distressed and are faced with difficult situations, we can find consolation in St. Joseph and ask him to come to our aid.

"Alex was a lovely boy, full of fun, always smiling"

There's a week to go to Christmas 2016 and let us pray we will all have a happy Christmas. But let us also spare a special thought and prayer for those who lost loved ones this year. One such family will be the Ryan family from Milstreet. In the January of this year, 18 year old Alex lost his life as a result of taking drugs at a party in Cork City. This leaves his mother Irene and family with incredible heartbreak this Christmas. But Irene is not the only mother and parent with this heartbreak. The Health Research Board released very disturbing statistics this past week, revealing that there was an average of two drug related deaths every day in Ireland during 2014. In the ten year period between 2004 and 2014, there were 6,697 drug related deaths in Ireland. The figures produced by the Health Research Board last week for 2014, the most recent year with data available, shows that 697 people had drug related deaths compared with 431 in 2004. A 62% increase in ten years. Prescription drugs were a factor in three out of every four drug overdoses, during 2014, and two thirds of people who died that year took a mixture of drugs, with an average of four drugs involved. Taking multiple drugs was shown to be a significant risk factor for fatal overdose.

These are very serious figures for our country. The coming of Christ seeks to call us to a better and happier way of life. We appeal to everybody stay away from drugs, you will end up, either in jail or dead and bring heartbreak to your own family or somebody else's family.

May the Lord comfort those who grieve this Christmas.

