

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.

Canon O'Learys on Sick Call this week;

Phone Number: 087 – 2524979

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mitchelstownparishofficechurch@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 & 7.30pm.
Bank Holidays: 11am

MORNING PRAYER: Monday – Friday: 8.00am

ROSARY: Monday – Saturday: 9.45am

CONFESSIONS: Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm
First Thursday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

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

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

Church of the Holy Family, Ballygiblin

MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy Day: **9.30 a.m.** First Friday: **7.30 p.m.**

CONFESSIONS: First Friday: **7.00pm**

St. Joseph's Church, Killacluig

MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy Day: **10.30 a.m.** First Friday: **6.30p.m.**

CONFESSIONS: First Friday: **6.00pm**

Pioneer Short Term Pledge for Lent: Many people choose to abstain from alcohol for Lent and offer this challenge as a prayer for someone suffering from problems with alcohol or other drugs. You can do likewise. Why not consider taking the short term Pioneer Pledge this Lent? Please give names to Pat McEvoy, The Parish Church Sacristan or any of the Pioneer Council Members.

Knock & Lough Derg 3 Day Trip: Due to the success of last year's one day retreats to Lough Derg there are three different date choices on offer for 2017. May 13th-15th, August: 22nd-24th, September 5th- 7th.

Day 1: Visit Knock & overnight in Bundoran

Day 2: Retreat on Lough Derg & overnight in Bundoran

Day 3: Visit two attractions on return journey home.

This is an all in package including, meals, Lough Derg & Coach.

For details on bookings etc. contact 023-8849196 Cormac on 087-6167835 or Denise on 087-7688561

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 8

Issue: 34 Date: Sunday 19th February 2017

Pope Sends Envoy to Medjugorje: Six young people have claimed daily apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary since June 24th, 1981 in Medjugorje (Bosnia and Herzegovina), three of them to this day, the other three at specific days throughout the year. There are four girls: Ivanka, Mirjana, Vicka, and Marija and two boys Ivan, Jakov. All six visionaries have married and have children. It is now almost 36 years since the apparitions began and the youngest, Jakov is 46, the others are in their 50's. The main message they say the Blessed Virgin gives them is an invitation to open our hearts to God, through Prayer and Fasting, for He alone is the true source of peace. The messages ask us to put God first in our lives and go to monthly Confession. The messages assert again and again that the Blessed Virgin has been permitted by God to be with us at this time and she intercedes for each one of us. Over the 35 years of the apparitions, millions of people have been to Medjugorje and re-discovered their faith. The young people asked Our Lady, like previous apparitions, for a sign so that people would believe them. In reply the Vision has promised to unbelievers a visible indestructible sign on the hill of the apparitions, when the apparitions end, but the Vision added not to wait for the sign, because when it comes, it will be too late for many. The Visionaries say Our Lady appeals to us, to convert now.

The local Diocese, the Episcopal Conference of former Yugoslavia and now the Vatican has, as yet, after many commissions of investigation, made no official declaration on the matter. In the past week Pope Francis has appointed a Special Envoy, to acquire a profound understanding of the pastoral situation in Medjugorje, with special concern for the needs of faithful who come on pilgrimage. On the basis of that understanding he is to suggest possible pastoral initiatives for the future. The Envoy is at present the Archbishop of Warsaw, Poland, Henryk Hoser, of the Pallottine Order. The Archbishop will have an exclusively pastoral character and his mission will end next summer.

FATIMA 1917 – 2017 ONE HUNDRED YEARS: To celebrate 100 years since the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima, Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council cordially invite you to Forrest Hall, New Square Mitchelstown on **Monday March 6th** where we will show **"THE STORY OF FATIMA"**. Come and learn more about the apparitions, the three secrets and the children Blessed Francisco, Blessed Jacinta and Sr. Lucia. The evening will begin at **7.30pm** and light refreshments will be served afterwards. *"In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph"*

GLENAHULLA N.S. FUNDRAISER BINGO –THIS Sunday 19th February in the **Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown** at **2.30pm**. CASH JACKPOT. Loads of Prizes.

Come and Join the Fun. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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Knock Shrine Pilgrimage to New York: A special pilgrimage to New York from Knock will take place from **8th – 14th May 2017**. Flying directly from Ireland West Airport to JFK with Aer Lingus Private Charter, the pilgrimage offers the chance to be a part of a memorable and historic trip. The full itinerary includes a special Requiem Mass on Saturday 13th at Old St. Patrick’s Cathedral for the re-internment of the remains of John Curry, the youngest of the Knock witnesses, which will be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Dolan. If you would like to find out more or make an enquiry, please contact the tour operators Joe Walsh Tours on (01) 241 0800 or e-mail bronwyn.clinton@joewalstours.ie

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Public Lecture on **Dementia in Ballindangan Hall** on **THIS Wednesday 22nd**

February at 7.30pm. Admission is Free. Come Early.

By Prof Sabina Brennan, Trinity College, Dublin.

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Cloyne Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima 2017: 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima. Under the Direction of Bishop Crean, Bishop of Cloyne. September 7th 2017 - September 14th 2017. Contact Pilgrimages Abroad/Lauri Duffy Travel Dublin. (01) 635 9300. info@pilgrimagesabroad.ie

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock is on **Sunday, 14th May**. Parishes to make their own travel arrangements.

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Humin Tech will hold an **Information Night in Glenahulla NS** on **21st of February** at **8.00pm** on Soil Fertility. Further info Martin O'Doherty 087-6850315

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THANK YOU- Catherine and Colm would like to sincerely thank you all for the amazing and so generous support at our coffee morning last Saturday with all proceeds going to the wonderful St Joseph’s Foundation in Charleville. We collected over €1200 and we will present to a Better life Committee member shortly. Thanks so much everyone.

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Station Masses: The Spring Station Masses will commence on **Thursday March 2nd and continue throughout Lent**. Some Stations will take place in the Parish Churches and others in the homes of parishioners. The Station Masses are offered for the families of the Station area to invoke God’s Blessings in all we do. It is also an opportunity to make an offering towards the income of the Parish Clergy. We always invite and encourage families to consider having the Station Mass in your home for your area. You are most welcome to have the Station Mass in your home, please contact the Parish Office and let us know. Again we ask your help for the distribution of the Station envelopes. The Spring distributors can collect the envelopes from the Parish Office, during Office hours – Monday to Friday, 9am to 12noon, it would greatly help.

Learn to Jive. Starting **Monday 6th March** in the Firgrove Hotel for 4 weeks. Times: 7pm-8.15pm or 8.30pm-10pm. Cost €40. For more details contact Tom on 087 399 5877. *We will go through all the basics in 4 weeks that will leave you feeling confident to Jive at your next big event!*

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Mitchelstown Musical Society will present their 11th production 'Anything Goes' from **February 21st to 25th** in the C.B.S Auditorium at 8pm nightly. Gala opening night on Tuesday 21st. Tickets available from Hyland’s bookshop Mitchelstown.

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“What we need to know about Yoga and Mindfulness” Many people today, whether they are aware of it or not, are searching for meaning and purpose in their lives. Many people lament they are afflicted from stress because of the demands and pressures of present day living. We all have heard of reflexology, Reiki, bio-energy, yoga, shamanism, many others and now the popular one is mindfulness. Both yoga and mindfulness have their origins in the Eastern philosophy of Buddhism. Buddhism holds there is no distinction between God and the universe. Through enlightenment a person becomes one with all of existence. There are various shades and colours of yoga, but one classic yoga mantra is “so’ham” meaning “I am the universal self”, which is often used repetitively, timed with your breathing. Mindfulness again focuses on the self as a form of meditation and relaxation, to help people with a wide range of physical and mental health problems. It was developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn in 1979 in America. The dangers in all these therapies for Christians are the focus on self as a means of salvation. Have we forgotten that we believe in one God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth? Have we forgotten the words of Jesus Christ, the Saviour who died for us “Come to me all who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest”. We believe salvation can only be found in Jesus Christ and not in ourselves. All true meditation is a personal encounter with God and His Son Jesus Christ. As Christians we must be alert to these subtle and misleading false doctrines. The more people are drawn into these “self-centred” doctrines, the more likely they are to decrease their adherence to Christianity and the more likely they are to adhere to nonreligious spirituality and Buddhism. These self-focused practices are a gateway to be spiritually disconnected from Christ. We need to get back to Christian meditation; we need to spend time with Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist. We need to take up again our Rosary beads and meditate on the life, death and resurrection of Our Saviour Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We also need to take up our Bibles and meditate on the word of God. He alone gives rest and peace. The Word of God is our salvation, looking for it in ourselves is a deception.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

The sympathy of the Parish Community is extended to the family and friends of –

Hannah Barrett (néé Hanley), *Ballinamona*

Tim Kenny, *Glenduff Upper*

Who died recently. *May They Rest In Peace*