

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 – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062. **Open 9am-12pm**

**Canon O'Leary is on Sick Call this week;
Phone Number: 087 – 2524979**

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY

● **Knock Novena:** The Novena to Our Lady of Knock concludes on Wednesday August 22nd next, the Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

● **Buses to Papal Mass in Phoenix Park:** Two Buses will leave the **Town Square Sunday Morning August 26th at 6.00am Sharp.**

● As next Sunday is last Sunday of the month, the Parish Maintenance and Development Collection will be taken up.

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

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

EUCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR: Thursday evening at **8.00pm – 9.00pm** with special prayers for Pope Francis and World Meeting of Families and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

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.**

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 10 Issue: 6 Date: Sunday 19th August 2018

We Welcome Pope Francis: Pope Francis will arrive at Dublin Airport next Saturday August 25th at 10.30am. After the welcome ceremony he will travel to Áras an Uachtaráin. Then he will travel to Dublin Castle to meet civil authorities and Diplomatic Corps. Then a visit to pro Cathedral followed by visit to the Day Centre of the Capuchin Fathers and concluding the day with Festival of Families in Croke Park at 7.30pm. On Sunday August 26th he will take a flight to Knock, landing at the Airport at 9.20am, arrival at Knock Shrine at 9.45am. He will return to Dublin at 11.50am and conclude with Mass at 3.00pm in the Phoenix Park. He will return to Rome at 18.45pm that evening.

It is a very short visit, but we are privileged that he is able to come. Two Buses will travel to the Papal Mass on **Sunday Morning at 6.00am from the Town Square.**

Pope Francis is our God given leader at this time. He is the Vicar of Christ and the successor of St. Peter the Apostle. Pope Francis is appointed by God to lead His people in the Ways of Faith and Doctrine for our time. He is God's human instrument and that is why we pray for him and pay attention to his guidance. Pope Francis is not St. John Paul or Pope Emeritus Benedict, no more than Joshua was Moses. These are all chosen instruments of God for their time. Pope Francis is alerting us to take care of our environment, and as his chosen name implies, to reach out a hand to those less fortunate than ourselves. May the Lord bless us as we greet with love and affection the successor of St. Peter next weekend.

The Twin Pillars of Victory: In May of 1862 St. John Bosco had a prophetic dream about the Church in these times: the battle and the victory.

"Imagine yourselves to be with me on the seashore, or better, on an isolated rock and not to see any patch of land other than what is under your feet. On the whole of that vast sheet of water you see an innumerable fleet of ships in battle array. The prows of the ships are formed into sharp, spear like points so that wherever they are thrust they pierce and completely destroy. These ships are armed with cannons, with lots of rifles, with incendiary materials, with other arms of all kinds, and also with books, and they advance against a ship very much bigger and higher than themselves and try to dash against it with the prows or to burn it or in some way to do it every possible harm.

"As escorts to that majestic fully equipped ship (the Church), there are many smaller ships, which receive commands by signal from it and carry out movements to defend themselves from the opposing fleet.

"In the midst of the immense expanse of sea, two mighty columns of great height arise a little distance the one from the other. On the top of one, there is the statue of the Immaculate Virgin, from whose feet hangs a large placard with this inscription: *Auxilium Christianorum - 'Help of Christians'*'; on the other, which is much higher and bigger, stands a Host of great size proportionate to the column and beneath is another placard with the words: *Salus Credentium - 'Salvation of the Faithful.'* Continued over the page.

The Twin Pillars of Victory continued: "The supreme commander on the big ship is the Sovereign Pontiff. He, on seeing the fury of the enemies and the evils among which his faithful find themselves, determines to summon around himself the captains of the smaller ships to hold a council and decide on what is to be done."All the captains come aboard and gather around the Pope. They hold a meeting (probably the First Vatican Council: 1869-1870), but meanwhile the wind and the waves gather in storm, so they are sent back to control their own ships. There comes a short lull; for a second time the Pope gathers the captains together around him (probably the Second Vatican Council: 1962-1965), while the flagship goes on its course. But the frightful storm returns. The Pope stands at the helm and all his energies are directed to steering the ship towards those two columns, from the top of which and from every side of which are hanging numerous anchors and big hooks, fastened to chains."All the enemy ships move to attack it, and they try in every way to stop it and to sink it: some with writings or books or inflammable materials, of which they are full; others with guns, with rifles and with rams. The battle rages ever more relentlessly. The enemy prow thrust violently, but their efforts and impact prove useless. They make attempts in vain and waste all their labour and ammunition; the big ship goes safely and smoothly on its way. Sometimes it happens that, struck by formidable blows, it gets large, deep gaps in its sides; but no sooner is the harm done than a gentle breeze blows from the two columns and the cracks close up and the gaps are stopped immediately."Meanwhile, the guns of the assailants are blown up, the rifles and other arms and prows are broken; many ships are shattered and sink into the sea. Then, the frenzied enemies strive to fight hand to hand, with fists, with blows, with blasphemy and with curses."All at once the Pope falls gravely wounded. Immediately, those who are with him run to help him and they lift him up. A second time the Pope is struck, he falls again and dies. A shout of victory and of joy rings out amongst the enemies; from their ships an unspeakable mockery arises. (Possibly refers to Pope John Paul I who was deeply devoted to Fatima and died under suspicious circumstances.)"But hardly is the Pontiff dead than another Pope takes his place. The pilots, having met together, have elected the Pope so promptly that the news of the death of the Pope coincides with the news of the election of the successor. The adversaries begin to lose courage."The new Pope, putting the enemy to rout and overcoming every obstacle, guides the ship right up to the two columns and comes to rest between them; he makes it fast with a light chain that hangs from the bow to an anchor of the column on which stands the Host; and with another light chain which hangs from the stern, he fastens it at the opposite end to another anchor hanging from the column on which stands the Immaculate Virgin."Then a great convulsion takes place. All the ships that until then had fought against the Pope's ship are scattered; they flee away, collide and break to pieces one against another. Some sink and try to sink others. Several small ships that had fought gallantly for the Pope race to be the first to bind themselves to those two columns."Many other ships, having retreated through fear of the battle, cautiously watch from far away; the wrecks of the broken ships having been scattered in the whirlpools of the sea, they in their turn sail in good earnest to those two columns, and, having reached them, they make themselves fast to the hooks hanging down from them and there they remain safe, together with the principal ship, on which is the Pope. Over the sea there reigns a great calm."St. John Bosco explains his dream: "The enemy ships are persecutions. The most serious trials for the Church are near at hand...Her enemies are represented by the ships that tried to sink the ship if they could. Only two means are left to save her amidst so much confusion:

DEVOTION TO MARY MOST HOLY and FREQUENT COMMUNION, making use of every means and doing our best to practice them and having them practiced everywhere and by everybody."*St John Bosco's dream*

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"Grandparents are a treasure" – Pope Francis. In recognition of the great contribution that grandparents make to the Church, to family, and to society in teaching and passing on the faith Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council have organised that the **11.30am Mass in the Parish Church, Mitchelstown on Sunday 9th September** will be a celebration for grandparents and families.

We invite grandparents and grandchildren to participate in the Mass. Please give your names to the Parish office, if you would like to take part in the Mass for example in the procession of symbols, readings, prayer of the faithful and reflection.

As part of the celebration, we would like to do a collage of pictures of living and deceased grandparents and also families in the Church. Please submit photos to the parish office or to any member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

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WMOF18 Diocese of Cloyne Opening Ceremony: We will join with every Diocese in Ireland, when we host an **Evening Prayer Ceremony to mark the opening of the World Meeting of Families. On Tuesday 21st August, at 7.30pm, St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh.** Presider - Most Rev. Bishop William Crean Featuring the Cloyne Diocesan Choir Each Parish in the Diocese is asked to ring their Church Bell at 7.30pm. Refreshments served following the ceremony at the Park Road Centre, Cobh.

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Lough Derg One Day Retreat – Wednesday, 29th August. Leaving Mitchelstown on Tuesday, 28th August at 8.30am for an overnight stay in Ballyshannon. Contact Bridget Fitzgerald for more details or to book your place, 086-3594571

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Person wanted for Care Taking position in the Tennis Club with the Awbeg Funcheon Recreation Scheme Ltd. Must be in receipt of a Social Welfare payment. Contact Aileen on 025-86956

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Kids & Coffee Parent & Toddler Group; the group starts back on Friday 31st August 10.30-12 in Ballindangan Community Centre. €3 per family. All welcome. See Ballindangan Kids & Coffee on Facebook for information.

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Annual St. Vincent de Paul Pilgrimage to Knock - Saturday 08th September 2018. Cost: €20.00 Adults – €7 Children. Bus will leave the Old Mart Mitchelstown at 7.30am. Places can be booked through the office at Ozanam Centre 025/84733

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The **National Council for the Blind of Ireland** need you! Can you spare a couple of hours and help out at your local Tesco for the NCBI National Tesco Bag Pack on Saturday 25th August 2018? If you and / or your friends and family have time to spare, please get in touch with fundraising@ncbi.ie / 01 882 1970

NEWLY BAPTISED:

We welcome into our Catholic Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Nicholas Kearney