

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**

Fr. Burke is on Sick Call this week;

Phone Number: 087 – 2524979

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY

Office Open: 9 am to 12 noon – Monday to Friday.

- **First Holy Communion:** The boys from C.B.S. Primary will receive their 1st Holy Communion at **11.30am Mass next Sunday**. We ask you to support the boys and their families and to pray for them.
- **Bus to Knock:** will leave the Town Square **Saturday, June 2nd at 7.15am, for the All Ireland Rosary Rally**. Adults €20, Children €10. Names to Sacristy or Parish Office.
- **CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION:** The Procession will take place on **Sunday, June 3rd after the 11.30am Mass**. The Route is; The Blessed Eucharist will be carried down Chapel Hill, turn right onto Main Street, down Lower Cork Street to the Traffic Lights, left onto Baldwin Street, left onto Thomas Street and finishing at the Town Hall grounds with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **Next Sunday is the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity.** It is the last day to fulfil our Easter duty by receiving Confession and Holy Communion.

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 Reflections on the Holy Spirit, prayers for the Country 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, Killacluig

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

CONFESSIONS: First Friday: **6.00pm.**

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

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Pastoral letter by Bishop William Crean on the right to life. - Decision
The Referendum on 25 May calls for a decision. The first and critical responsibility is that you exercise your say by voting in the Referendum. The text of the Eighth Amendment in the Constitution reads: *'The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.'*

While this Amendment was introduced in 1983 it has stood the test of time. In saying this I am aware that those seeking its repeal reject its aspiration as too restrictive and quite difficult and tragic situations where it has proved inadequate in their view. However on 7 March the Supreme Court ruled that **it is now the only protection for the unborn** in the Constitution. Our decision calls for the greater good of humanity, the protection of the unborn and the care of the individual woman to be balanced. I am convinced by the statements of obstetricians of long standing who vouch that their care of individual women has not been restricted by the Eighth Amendment. *The Protection of Life during Pregnancy Act* can best provide for difficult and tragic pregnancies. When this debate began it started out dealing with difficult issues like rape, incest and non-viable pregnancies. What is now proposed is light years away from very rare and restricted circumstances to a proposal that provides for termination of perfectly viable pregnancies. I detect sinister intentions at work here (Matt 10:24-31).

In making our decision we need to be alert to what has evolved in other countries where similar proposals to ours have been put in place. The destruction of unborn lives has not just become legal but also taken for granted and routine. Do we wish to create a society whereby we are desensitized to the destruction of the unborn? When something is legalised, in the eyes of many, it is morally acceptable? When we lose sensitivity to care for the unborn we risk becoming equally insensitive to the frail and elderly. The invitation to be pro-choice is presented as being morally neutral. The fact is **the unborn have no choice**. Our choice can be a matter of life and death unless we as a society protect them and vindicate their right to life.

A compassionate society will do all in its power to support and love the mother and the baby and encourage responsible support from fathers. (Statement of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, Spring 2018).

Choose Life! My brothers and sisters in Christ. In the light of these reflections on the debate, the nature of discernment leading to a decision I invite you to **CHOOSE LIFE!** That means voting **No** to the proposal to repeal the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution which seeks to vindicate the right to life of both the mother and her unborn child.

I appeal to you to exercise your vote and participate in this national decision on how we wish to treat the unborn into the future.

Continue to pray for the health and wellbeing of the expectant mothers.

