

**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.**

**Parish Website: www.mitchelstownparish.ie**

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council is

- **Knock Novena:** The Novena to Our Lady of Knock concludes on Tuesday next, the Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**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

**We encourage families to practice monthly Confession**

**EUCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR:** Thursday evening at **8.00pm – 9.00pm**

with special prayers for grieving families 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, Killacluig**

**MASS TIMES:** Sunday & Holy Day: **10.30am**.

**First Friday: 6.30pm.**

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

# Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

*Volume:* 9

*Issue:* 8 *Date:* Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**Offence against the Holy Eucharist:** Earlier this year, January 6<sup>th</sup>, during a panel discussion on the Late Late Show on R.T.E. Television, the Rubberbandits comedy duo referred to the Holy Eucharist as “haunted bread”, while another panellist compared it to cannibalism. A great laugh was made on the programme to what is central and sacred to the Catholic faith: the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. This enormous gift of the Saviour left of Himself at the Last Supper, on the Holy Thursday night, the night before He gave His life for humanity on the Cross. Christ commanded His disciples to “Do This In Memory Of Me”. The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic Faith and practice. Thousands of people and priests throughout the country were offended by the programme and the flippant way it was dealt with by the Presenter, Ryan Tubridy and made their disgust known to R.T.E. and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. The Broadcasting Authority recently ruled it was “legitimate for a panellist to articulate their own personal views” but accepted that the Presenter Ryan Tubridy misjudged the offence lightly to have been caused by the use of the term “haunted bread”. They also stated that the Presenter compounded the offence, when he complimented the panellist for the term. But the Broadcasting Authority did not believe that the comments and the Presenters contributions “crossed a line such that due offence was caused to the audience as a whole”. George Hook, one of Irelands top Broadcasters, criticised the Broadcasting Authority for its findings. He said the show offended, showed contempt and cared little for the beliefs of a majority of people on this Island.

Well done to Fr.s' Gerard Ahern, Fr. Kevin McNamara and all the people who went to the trouble to express their outrage at such disrespect to what is so central to our Catholic practice and faith. Jesus said “I am the Living Bread come down from Heaven, anyone who eats this Bread will live forever”. (John Chapter 6).

May Irish people never lose their faith in the Holy Eucharist and always have courage to stand up for Christ when He is insulted. We don't pay our taxes and our television licences to have our faith and our God mocked.

**A Word of Thanks:** We were blessed with a very pleasant evening for the Mass at the Grotto on Wednesday last. Thanks to everybody who prepared so well for the celebration. Special appreciation and thanks to Michael & Margaret Boland, who take such wonderful care of the Grotto throughout the year. The Grotto is always beautifully kept and maintained, as is fitting to the Queen of Heaven.

**Waterford /S.E. Region Charismatic Conference 2017: “COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART”** Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 10am both days. The Rhu Glenn Hotel, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny. Speakers: Fr. Pat Collins, Marie Beirne, Fr. Damian Ryan & Bishop Phonsie Cullinan. Organised by Word of God Outreach. Contact Síle 086 859 0394/Mossy 087-213 6812. Weekend €25 Pre-booking not necessary.

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**Digital Skills for Citizens training programmes** will commence in Mitchelstown in September. The five week programmes aim to give people the confidence, motivation and skills to take their first steps online. Courses will run in Stag Park Community House, Mitchelstown with the first course starting on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am. A further course aimed at farmers will commence on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and a course specifically catering for the needs of parents in the Digital world will commence on 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. The programme will also run in **Library, Kilfinane commencing on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Training is delivered over five two hour sessions and is FREE.** For further information or to book a place on any of Digital Skills for Citizens training, please contact Ballyhoura Development in the **Cappamore office on 061 371141/ 061 387042.**

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**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is a specially designed **Support Programme** for men and women who have suffered the loss of a spouse by death, separation or divorce to work through the grief process, and to discover for themselves that merely "existing" in life can be transformed into "living" a new life, though a different one.

The next weekend is being held in the **Ennismore Retreat Centre, Cork** from **Friday October 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.** For Application Forms and further details please contact 087 9886480 or e-mail [beginningexperience@gmail.com](mailto:beginningexperience@gmail.com)

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**Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage September 10<sup>th</sup> Knock Shrine 2.30pm.** Everybody welcome to honour and thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin – Ballina School Choir – Dana sings ‘Our Lady of Knock’

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The **Irish Cancer Society** operates a free Volunteer Driver Service that is available to patients attending the following hospitals for chemotherapy treatments; **Cork University Hospital; The Mercy University Hospital & South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital.** Volunteer drivers will pick a patient up at the door of their home, drop them at the hospital door and then when finished treatment, pick them up and drop them home again. All volunteer expenses are paid. Patients wishing to avail of this free service should contact their healthcare professional, visit the website at [irishcancer.ie](http://irishcancer.ie) or contact the Irish Cancer Society for more information on 01 2310 522.

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On behalf of **The Irish Blood Transfusion Service**, Please pass on our thanks to all who contributed to the running of this Clinic. **218** Donors attended our Blood Donor Clinic in **The Firgrove Hotel.** This generosity and commitment to helping others is very much appreciated. Donating Blood is a precious gift that brings life and hope to patients, their families and friends.

## **5 EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES THAT LEFT PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:**

**1) Miracle of Lanciano – 8th century:** In the 8th century, a priest in Lanciano, Italy was experiencing doubts about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. In the middle of saying Mass, he said the words of consecration (“This is my body,” “This is my blood”) and saw the bread and wine transform into real human flesh and blood. The blood coagulated into five globules (later believed to be representative of the five wounds of Christ). Word of the miracle quickly spread, the local archbishop launched an investigation, and the Church approved the miracle. The flesh is still preserved to this day. Professor of anatomy Odoardo Linoli conducted a scientific analysis of the flesh in 1971 and concluded that the flesh was cardiac tissue, the blood appeared to be fresh blood (as opposed to blood that was 1200 years old), and there was no trace of preservatives. You can visit the miraculous flesh and blood in the Church of San Francesco in Lanciano, Italy.

**2) The Corporal of Bolsena – 13th century:** A priest who had been experiencing doubts about transubstantiation was celebrating mass in Orvieto, Italy. Soon after he had consecrated the Eucharist, the host started bleeding onto the corporal (a liturgical cloth) on the altar. The priest, the story goes, ran to the pope who was visiting the town and confessed his sin of doubt. The corporal remains on display in the Cathedral of Orvieto. Some historians, however, question the veracity of the story, since the first accounts of it don’t appear until about a hundred years after the miracle supposedly took place. Nonetheless, the corporal remains an object of veneration.

**3) The Hosts of Siena, Italy – 18th century:** On August 14th, 1730, while the Catholics of Siena, Italy were attending a special festival for the eve of the feast of the Assumption, thieves entered the Church of St. Francis and stole a golden ciborium containing hundreds of a consecrated hosts. Two days later, someone noticed something white protruding from the offering box at another church in Siena. The priests opened the box and found the missing hosts inside, entangled in cobwebs and dirt. After being cleaned as much as possible, the hosts were placed in a new ciborium and taken back to the Church of St. Francis for prayers of reparation and veneration. Since the hosts were dirty, the priests decided not to consume them but let them simply deteriorate. Over the next few decades, everyone was amazed to see that the hosts did not deteriorate, but actually appeared fresh. The hosts remain in this state today, 285 years later, and can still be seen in the (now) Basilica of St. Francis in Siena, Italy.

**SEE NEXT WEEK’S ISSUE FOR 4 & 5:**

### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

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

Edmond(Ned) Barry, Croughevoe, Ballygiblin

Who died recently. *May He Rest In Peace*

### **NEWLY BAPTISED:**

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

Patrick Coffey