

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. 086-8168588
Parish Office: Phone: 025-84062.

E-MAIL: mitchelstownparishoffice@eircom.net

DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY

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

Parish Website: www.mitchelstownparish.ie

Canon Fitzgerald is on Sick Call this week - Phone Number: 087 - 2524979

RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

PARISH CHURCH - MITCHELSTOWN
ON MONDAY, 22ND DECEMBER AT 7.30PM.

8 priests will be available to hear confession.

Confession:

It is important that we receive the Sacrament of Confession regularly, it keeps us in the Grace of God, as we face life's difficulties and it prepares us for the day when the Lord will call us.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS:

CHURCH OF OUR LADY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, MITCHELSTOWN:

Tuesday, 23rd December – 12 noon to 1pm

Wednesday, 24th December (Christmas Eve) – 12noon to 1pm & 3pm to 4pm.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR THE PRIESTS:

Your Offering envelope will be delivered to all homes during the week. The Priests wish to thank all the parishioners for their generosity to their collections.

The Parish Office is closed for the Christmas Holidays from Friday, 19th December to Wednesday, 7th January 2015.

There will be no Newsletter on Sunday, 4th January.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Newsletter during 2014 and look forward to dealing with you in 2015.

Wishing you all a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2015.

The word of the lord: Sincere thanks to all Ministers who proclaimed **Gods Word** during 2014. Your commitment is greatly appreciated. May you all have a very happy Christmas. Looking forward to working with you again in 2015 Please God. Catherine McGrath. *Coordinator*

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 6 Issue: 28 Date: Sunday 21st December 2014

Protection of Children: Last weekend the Diocese published its Safeguarding Children Newsletter, highlighting a deep awareness of the need to safeguard all our children – thank God for all the work done and the co-operation of all volunteers.

While the revelations of recent years have alerted us all, a recent Prime Time R.T.E. programme revealed a shocking access of children to inappropriate contact with adults on the internet. While all these new safeguards are put in place, our children could be exposed to more sinister dangers on the internet, without parents even being aware of it. It is necessary for parents to educate and guard their children against these dangers and to be on guard at all times.

Christmas is a special Feast for all children and young people, because our God was born among us as a child. May the Christ Child bless and protect all our children and our families.

Christmas 2014: As the special day of December 25th approaches, the Church's Liturgy present the important role and co-operation of the Virgin Mary with the will of God. God entered the world as a human being, through the consent of Our Lady to be His mother, by the power of the Holy Spirit. God wanted to come into humanity and Our Lady's consent changed the whole course of human history. Mary teaches us to open our hearts to the invitation of God. God respects our free will. Like Our Lady, God needs our "yes" and our "consent" to fulfil His will on earth as it is in Heaven. Through our consent to the will of God, the power of evil and his control over the world is weakened and destroyed. Without our consent to the will of God, evil gains control and power over the affairs of the world. This is why Our Lady is appealing to us through her many apparitions to return to God and to prayer at this time. Let us reflect anew this holy time and follow the example of Mary and surrender our will to God in trust and prayer. Now is the time to return to God, this is our opportunity.

Marriage is a unique relationship different from all others: Married love is a unique form of love between a man and woman which has a special benefit for the whole of society.1 The Catholic Church, with other Christians and those of no particular religious view, regard the family based on marriage between a woman and a man as the single most important institution in any society. To seek to re-define the nature of marriage would be to undermine it as the fundamental building block of our society. The Church seeks with others to reaffirm the rational basis for holding that marriage should be reserved for the unique and complementary relationship between a woman and a man from which the generation and upbringing of children is uniquely possible. This understanding of marriage is deeply rooted in all cultures: it is not intended to exclude or disadvantage anyone. Children have a natural right to a mother and a father, and this is the best environment for them where possible. It is therefore deserving of special recognition and promotion by the State

Christmas Nativity Pageant in Ballygiblin Church on Christmas Eve at 8.30pm sharp.

THANK YOU FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL OF ST. FANAHAN'S COLLEGE

The Parent Council would like to thank everyone for their generous support of their **BAG PACK** which was held in Tesco Mitchelstown on **THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2014**. All monies raised will be used for the benefit of each pupil of the school.

BRIGHT SPARKS - BEST IN CLASS Educational Computer Training Classes. Fun Computer Lessons incorporating MATHS /ENGLISH /LANGUAGE /PHONICS suitable for 4, 5 & 6 years old. Starting January 2015. Bookings now taken for classes. Class sizes limited. We aim to improve your child's level of technology and advance to higher levels in school. Price €8 per class, 45 minutes class Afternoons / weekends. Call 025 86799 for booking form.

While you **take a few hours off** to get sorted for Christmas we at Bright Sparks will take care of your children in a fun and friendly environment. All ages catered for, food included, €7 per hour. To book your child in please call us at 025 86799

Wishing all our families and friends a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year

Mitchelstown Youth Café are hosting on **Saturday 27th December** in Mitchelstown Enterprise Centre. **The Kube** is based on the TV show of the same name, which will see contestants face a range of different challenges that will test their concentration and nerve. For further details please feel free to contact us on 087 9129684 or by email at kubemitchelstown@gmail.com

Mitchelstown Citizens Information Centre will be closed for the Christmas holidays, from Saturday 20th December and will reopen on Monday, 5th January.

Parishioners are encouraged to participate in our Pilgrim Virgin's Home Visit Programme. Families are asked to set up a little home shrine where our Blessed Mother's statue will be placed. The Recitation of the Rosary by a family gathering is granted a plenary indulgence when all requirements are met. Recitation of five decades of the Rosary in the group with meditation on each decade. The usual conditions for a plenary indulgence are also needed, Confession, Holy Communion and prayers for the Popes Intentions. You can make arrangements for the Legion of Mary Pilgrim Statue visit, which is usually a week visit by contacting the parish office or a member of the Legion. Legion Members will bring the statue to your home and pray the welcoming Rosary with you, your family, and friends. Closing prayers are said when the statue moves from your home to a new location.

St George's Mitchelstown

Sunday 21st December 3.30pm with the James Fitzgerald Memorial Band.

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve – Kingston College Chapel 9pm

Christmas Day – St George's Mitchelstown 11.30am

MITCHELSTOWN LAWN TENNIS CLUB: We would like to thank everyone who contributed, in any way to, our table quiz & party night on Friday, 12th December last. **GO RAIBH MILE MAITH AGAT & NOLLAIG SHONA DUIT**

Mitchelstown Flower & Garden Club we wish all our Members and Friends Old and New, a very Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year.

Children's Liturgy: There is a children's liturgy at the 12 noon Mass each Sunday in the Parish Church. All children from pre-school to second class are welcome to attend. The Liturgy takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and begins at 12 noon. The children return to their parents in the main church at approximately 12.15pm. The aim of the children's liturgy is to present the Gospel of the day, in a fun and exciting way. Please note that the Children's Liturgy will take place on Sunday 21st of December and will return after Christmas on Sunday 4th of January.

Presentation and CBS Secondary Schools, Mitchelstown proudly presents "Come to the Cabaret". 21st, 22nd, & 23rd January 2015 in CBS Secondary Hall at 8pm. Tickets are available from Presentation Secondary School (025-24394), Centra and Hylands Bookshop. Adult: €10 Student/Child: €5

Mitchelstown Library, Sutton's Court, Mitchelstown. Tel: 025 41939

Mitchelstown.library@corkcoco.ie Tues – Sat 9.30am to 5.30pm. Closed Saturdays of Bank Holiday weekends.

Mitchelstown Library Activities:

- ◆ The next meeting of the Bookclub will be on Tuesday the 3rd of February at 10.30am.
- ◆ The Writer's Group meet every second Friday at 10.30am. Please call the library to find out the date of the next meeting.
- ◆ The Irish language group meet every other Friday at 4pm. This group is open to everyone and is a great way to keep the cupla focail you remember from school! Please call the library to find out the date of the next meeting.

Stuck for ideas for Christmas?

Why not give someone you love the gift of a Cork County Library membership? Adult memberships are €2.50 and Children are 50cent for the year.

Got a new Kindle or tablet for Christmas?

Why not deck it out with the latest eBooks or audio books? Download the BorrowBox app and sign in with your Cork County Library membership to enjoy free eBooks. Just what you need to soothe your soul and wallet after the Christmas Season!!

If you are, or know of someone who is interested in using the exhibition space in the library give us a call on 025 41939

Christmas Hours: Open: Tuesday 23rd December 9.30am to 5.30pm

Closed: Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th December Both Days inclusive

Open: Tuesday 30th & Wednesday 31st December 9.30am – 5.30pm

Closed: Thursday 1st January 2015. Back to normal from Friday the 2nd of January 2015

We wish you all a very Merry & Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Physiotherapy-led Pilates Classes in the Ozanam Centre commencing Wednesday 14th January for 6weeks. Classes at 6.30pm, 7.30pm and 8.30pm, all levels catered for. Please contact Catherine on 0857076585 to pre book."