

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.
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Canon O'Leary is on Sick Call this week;

Phone Number: 087 – 2524979

N.B. - NEW 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 mitchelstownppc@gmail.com

Also on Facebook – Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council

NEW MASS TIMES IN PARISH CHURCH: Will begin **next Sunday, May 29th**. Sunday morning Mass times will be at **8.30am & 11.30am**. Saturday and Sunday Evening Mass times will remain the same at 7.30pm.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK: Parish Church: 8.30am & 10.00am

No 10am Mass on Saturday 28th May due to 1st Holy Communion.

MORNING PRAYER: Monday – Friday: 8.00am

CONFESSIONS: Saturday: 7.00-7.30pm only, due to 1st Holy Communion

EUCCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR: Thursday evening **8.00pm – 9.00pm**, with special prayers for Exam Students and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS: Every Friday in the Parish Church at **3.00pm**. All welcome.

Corpus Christi Procession: Next Sunday is the Feast of Corpus Christi and a Eucharistic Procession through the Town will take place after the 11.30am Mass in the Parish Church. We encourage you and your family to participate in this great act of faith to Christ, our Lord. After the celebration of Mass we will assemble in the Church yard and begin the procession. We follow the route outlined and conclude in the Town Square with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The procession lasts about 45 minutes.

Darkness into Light: On Saturday morning May 7th at 4.15am about 2,000 people from the Town and surrounding areas participated in the suicide awareness walk. The walk started at the Leisure Centre and took a 5km walk through the Town. It was wonderful to see people of all ages involved and well done to all the organisers.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 7

Issue: 47 Date: Sunday 22nd May 2016

Change of Mass Times: Today will bring an end to the 10.30am & 12.00 Noon Masses in the Parish Church. As and from **next Sunday, May 29th** Mass Times on Sunday Morning in the **Parish Church** will be at **8.30am & 11.30am**. This change will reduce the number of weekend Masses in the Parish Church from seven to six Masses. Saturday & Sunday Evening Masses in the Parish Church will remain the same at 7.30pm. Ballygiblin & Killacluig will remain the same also, at 9.30am & 10.30am on Sunday morning. The weekday Masses Monday – Saturday will remain the same at 8.30am & 10.00am.

Like all changes, it will take time for us all to adjust. The choice of times, we believe, will give everybody in the Parish the opportunity to attend one of the Masses and fulfil our duty of gratitude to God and to Our Eucharistic Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a good time to recall and remember that the Holy Eucharist and the Mass is the source and summit of all Christian prayer and action. Without the Holy Eucharist our Christian faith declines and may even die altogether. When the Catholic faith was persecuted in Ireland during the penal laws, Irish Catholics longed to be able to gather with their priest for Mass. The Holy Eucharist and the Mass define our faith and belief in Christ and brings us together as the community of Christ. Our faith and our togetherness centres on the Mass, it is the source and summit of all that we are. For this central reason, we must never take lightly missing Mass, without good reason. It must be a priority for us all and for our families. For this reason we must all encourage one another to attend Mass, at least weekly. We must also give priority to celebrate Mass worthily and well and seek to have an ever greater participation in the Sacrament. For this reason let us be generous and without fear, participate in the various Liturgical Ministers. Let us use our talents of singing and music in the Church. We must express our gratitude, particularly to those who are so committed to music and singing in Church, Sunday after Sunday. In particular, today we want to thank Anna-Marie Russell for singing and playing the organ for 30 years at the 10.30am Mass. What a generous and faithful service to the community. Thanks to all those, in all three Churches who are generously giving their time to help prepare and improve the celebration of the Holy Mass. Your efforts are of supreme importance. Now is the time for all of us again to give priority to the Lord and His honour and glory. A renewed effort from us all will make an enormous difference.

Child Protection Committee: The Committee met last Monday night. The Committee holds four meetings every year. The Chairperson is Martin Kelly (Delegate), Secretary is Fr. Burke. Committee members: Martha Kent (Delegate), Joan Molan, Breeda Crotty, Catherine Hanley, Canon O'Leary & Canon Fitzgerald. Garda vetting is now mandatory for all adults working with children & vulnerable adults. This is already the practice, but now it is law. In the coming months the Catholic Church in Ireland will be issuing a new and updated Safeguarding Children Policy. Those who were vetted 5 years ago are now required to be re-vetted. There are now new vetting forms with some additions. The Safeguarding of children is a priority for us all and we ask the support of the community in carrying out our task. If you have any concerns, please speak to one of the above members.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The girls and boys from Bunscoil Na Toirbhirte & CBS Primary will receive their 1st Holy Communion at **11.00am** Mass on Saturday next. **Church Yard Car Parking for Special Needs Only.**

Rosary at Grotto: Throughout the month of May, a group will lead the recitation of the Rosary **every evening** at the Grotto of Our Lady, Cahir Hill, at **8.00pm**, except on **Thursdays**, when it will be at the earlier time of **7.30pm**. All welcome

Mitchelstown Flower & Garden Club change of venue for May 26th evening outing we are off to Joan Cashman's Garden, Whites Cross we will be leaving the New Square at 6.15pm for garden viewing at 7.00pm everyone welcome

Bingo Night Fundraiser: In The Ramble Inn, Mitchelstown, on **Monday, 23rd May at 8.30pm**. All proceeds go towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible car for Caragh Kiernan. Great prizes on the night. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Mitchelstown Community Pre-School: Enrolments are now being taken for August/September 2016. Operating E.C.C.E. Scheme (*free school year*). Experienced and Fully Trained Staff. If you wish to enrol your child, please contact Mary at 086-883 2533 or home 025-24697, or Tina at 086-8454870.

T.O. Park Bus to Knock: Leaves the Square, Mitchelstown **Saturday, May 28th** at 7.00am, picking up at the Park and Ballylanders. We are guests of the SMA Fathers that day in Knock. Full breakfast on way up and evening meal on way home. To book call T.O. on 086-8272761, Deci on 086-4005727 or Stella on 025-24009. Cost €50.

T.O. Park Bus to Bloom: From the Square, Mitchelstown, **Monday, June 6th** at 7.00am to Phoenix Park, Dublin. Cost €35 including entry ticket and coach. To book call any of the above numbers.

Mitchelstown Defibrillator Committee will be holding a Public Meeting on **Wednesday, 25th May at 8pm** in the **Town Hall**. All are welcome to attend! Anyone interested in CPR and Defibrillator, can pre-book with Michelle on 085-1502008. Training will be done over two sessions and will cost €45.

MERIT AWARDS FOR MITCHELSTOWN PIONEERS:

The Mitchelstown Pioneer Centre has been awarded Gradam na Réadóirí for the year 2015, in recognition of the overall quality of commitment and service in promoting the aims and goals of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart, held recently. This is the 9th time that the Graham (Pioneer Merit Award) has been awarded to Mitchelstown Centre. Mass and presentations were held in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Gardiner St. Dublin 1. The Principal Celebrant and Homilist was Rev. J. McGuckian SJ, Central Spiritual Director Pioneer Association and the readings and address were by newly elected President of the Pioneer Association, Mr. James Shevlin (Glinsk, Co. Galway). After the Mass 39 Pioneer Centres from all over Ireland, were each presented with a special embroidered Pennant and Certificate of Achievement, by the President of the National Association, James Shevlin.

Bus to Knock: Leaving the Town Square on **Saturday June 4th at 7.15am**. Namesto Pat McEvoy, Sacristan or Patricia in the Parish Office.

Special Collection for the 2018 International Gathering on the Family: Pope Francis has asked Ireland to be the Venue for the Special Event. A special collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, to help organise the event.

RESEARCH: Dear Sir/Madame, My name is Jon Paul Faulkner and I just want to inform you of a joint research collaboration between University College Dublin and Teagasc that wishes to explore the experience of rural households in the post-recessionary economy, the extent to which they are still experiencing the impacts of the recession, and the extent to which they may have recovered. Ultimately the research aims to promote development in local economies. In order to achieve the aims of our research we would like to gather information from households in your area using a survey. A small number of households will be randomly selected and 2 data collectors and I will call to these households between May 24th - June 7th to ask if they are willing to participate. We will be staying in the area for 2 weeks. I and the two data collectors will have the appropriate identification. The survey will be left with the participant to complete at their own convenience, they can leave the survey outside if they wish in a waterproof paper bag provided, and it can be collected at a later date that is convenient for the household. The research is part of an **independent study**, is **strictly anonymous**, and **completely confidential**. Names will not be used and information cannot be linked to any person or address. Information used will relate only to broad statistical analysis.

I am just writing to spread the word in the community that the survey is taking place, just so people know we will be in the area on the dates above. I will also inform local Garda Offices with details of official identifications and car registrations. The research team includes myself Jon Paul Faulkner, Professor Mark Scott (UCD), Dr. Enda Murphy (UCD), and David Meredith (Teagasc). Data collectors include Ciaran McDermott, a Master's student in UCD, and Shane McLoughlin, a PhD student in UCD. For further information regarding any aspect of the study please contact myself JP Faulkner at: jon-paul.faulkner@ucdconnect.ie or phone 01-7162813 or 086-8948807

The Irish Heart Foundation would like to thank, most sincerely, the Parishioners of Mitchelstown for the generosity they showed during their 2016 Church Gate Collection. The total amount raised was €775.00

Ministers of the Eucharist: A meeting of all Ministers of the Eucharist will be held in the **Parish Church on Monday May 23rd at 7.30pm**. The meeting will include a short period of Eucharistic Adoration and will be followed by a few announcements. We ask all Ministers to attend.

Corpus Christi Procession: Next Sunday is the Feast of Corpus Christi and a Procession with Holy Eucharist through the Town will take place immediately after the **11.30am Mass**. The route will be Chapel Hill, Upper Cork Street, James Street, George's Street, Baldwin Street, Lower Cork Street and conclude in the Town Square with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a great Annual Faith event and we encourage you to participate. We also invite the homes and premises, along the route, to put up appropriate decorations. **Church Yard Parking for Special Needs Only.**

We invite all helpers for the Procession to a short meeting in the Parish Church Sacristy on Tuesday Evening, 24th May, at 6.30pm.