

**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: Phone: 025-84062.

**Canon Fitzgerald is on Sick Call this week;  
Phone Number: 087 – 2524979**

**N.B. - PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

**[mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.mitchelstownparish.ie)**

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council is **[mitchelstownppc@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownppc@gmail.com)**  
**Also on Facebook – Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council**

**Masses During the Week:** Parish Church: 8.30am & 10.00am

**Morning Prayer:** Monday – Friday: 8.00am

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

**Eucharistic Healing Hour:**

Thursday evening **8.00pm – 9.00pm**, with Special Prayers for employment, anointing of the sick and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

**Prayer Service for Confirmation Candidates: Will take place in Parish Church on Monday Evening at 7.30pm.** Sr. Antoinette Dilworth will address the special gathering. We request all candidates to be present.

**Year of Mercy Diocesan Reflection Day** Bishop William Crean invites you to be part of an afternoon of reflection on the theme of “Merciful like the Father: Living the Year of Mercy.” It will be led by Dr. Edward Sri, an internationally - known Catholic speaker and author. Date: **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016** Time: **3.00pm – 6.30pm** Venue: **Clayton Hotel Conference Centre, Silver Springs, Tivoli, Cork City** For more information: Email:[cloynewevangelisation@gmail.com](mailto:cloynewevangelisation@gmail.com)  
Tel:086-2420240

**Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter**

**Volume: 7 Issue: 31 Date: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**What is Good Friday?**

“It was about the sixth hour and with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, He said, “Father into your hands I commit my spirit”. “With these words He breathed His last.” (*Gospel of Luke Chapter 23*).

In preparation for the European Soccer Championship in June a friendly international has been organised between Ireland and Switzerland on Good Friday. Going back to 1927 public houses have remained closed on Good Friday. Now they demand to be allowed to open to accommodate football fans and the influx of tourists.

This must challenge us all to reflect on What is Good Friday? Like retaining the Angelus and schools remaining closed on January 6<sup>th</sup>, another Sacred Day for Christians needs to be reflected upon. For your reflection you might find it helpful to Google “What is Good Friday?”

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, Christians regarded every Friday as a special day, because they believed that this was the day that their Saviour suffered and died in the Cross for the release of their sins and the sins of humanity. As the Christian Religion became more established, understood and appreciated, the events of Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection came to be more solemnly celebrated. The day Christ died became known as God’s Friday, Holy Friday, Good Friday and other terms. Even though what was done to Christ was not good on that day, the benefits for all who accepted Christ were enormous – forgiveness of sins, eternal life.

As a Christian Nation generations of Irish people have given special respect to the Day and the hour Christ died. Up until recent years it was an unwritten understanding that the last thing you would organise on Good Friday would be a soccer international, out of respect for God and for what many of us believe what He has done for us.

Believing Christians must ask themselves: Can I remain silent at this challenge to a most sacred tradition? Will it make any difference to the well being of my nation by treating this Sacred Day, as any other day? Before His death, did not Jesus weep over the city that was about to reject Him?

It is time for our Nation to think very carefully and for believing Christians to stand up and speak up.

Good Friday this year will be celebrated on Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>: **We adore You, O Christ and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the World.**

*P.S.* Good Friday became a National Holiday in Cuba due to the efforts of Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict requested that President Raul Castro make the Religious date a Public Holiday, this he allowed for many to do.

*'St. Fanahan's College - A gentle reminder to all sixth class parents/legal guardians that the deadline for submission of Enrolment Forms for St. Fanahan's College is **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2016**. Please don't hesitate to contact the college on (025) 24314 for any further information.'*

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**Mitchelstown Musical Society** celebrating 10 years presents Oklahoma in the C.B.S. Auditorium from February 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets available from Hylands Bookshop and The Favourite. Please note seating is numbered this year.

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Looking at our lives during Lent – two opportunities for you!

**1. The meaning of Justice and Peace - for You, Your Family and Your Parish.**

A serious conversation inspired by Pope Francis. Facilitators: Michael Geaney and Sr. Clare.

The venue: Carmelite Centre, Tallow. Dates: Tuesday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm Cost: €5 per night or €15 for three nights.

**2. Would you like to make a Retreat at home?**

Have you ever said to yourself “what have the stories/parables in the Bible to say to me about my daily life? “

For five nights during Lent we will explore this question. Facilitator: Sr. Clare.

The venue: Carmelite Centre, Tallow.

Dates: Thursday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>

Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm Cost: €20 for five nights.

Places are limited for both events. Please contact Michael at [michaelgeaney1@yahoo.ie](mailto:michaelgeaney1@yahoo.ie) or 0863830857 or Clare at [clare.s.slattery@gmail.com](mailto:clare.s.slattery@gmail.com) preferably before 25<sup>th</sup> January.

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**Mitchelstown Flower & Garden Club** are holding their **Annual General meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in the Town Hall at 8.00pm** sharp with a guest speaker to talk later and refreshments will be served, everyone welcome.

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**C.B.S. Secondary Parent Council** would like to thank everyone for their generous support of their recent Church Gate Collection.

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**“Eucharistic Adoration” Appeal**

We invite you to come and participate in Eucharistic Adoration by taking on an Adoration hour in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Let the Lord give you many wonderful graces and blessings for spending time with Him. We are looking for people to share the following hours; Sunday 4pm, Monday 4pm, Friday 12 noon, Saturday 6am. Also looking for someone to do Adoration Wednesday 3am.

Please contact: Nora 025-24149 or Catherine 087-7727496.

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**Ballygiblin N.S.** are now taking enrolments for 2016/2017 school year.

Please phone 025/24933 for enrolment form.

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The first ever **Munster Rally for Life** will take place on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>, assembling on The Grand Parade, Cork at 2pm. Join us to protect mothers & save babies from abortion. See [www.munsterrallyforlife.com](http://www.munsterrallyforlife.com). Tel: 085 8555095.

**Please note there is a new e-mail address for the Parish Office**  
**[mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com)**

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**Would you like to Quit Smoking?**

A 6 week HSE ‘Stop Smoking’ support group will start in

**Mitchelstown Living Health Centre, HSE 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 12md-1pm**

The course, which is Free of Charge, will be facilitated by the HSE, Health Promotion Department and will be one hour a week over six weeks. The course offers smokers support and practical advice and highlights different approaches and techniques that encourage people to reduce and quit smoking. To avail of a place and get further information please contact The Health Promotion Department, HSE South, MPHCC

Telephone 022 – 58634

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**Counselling: - Accord** offers a safe, professional and confidential process, facilitating couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriage and relationship. For appointment please ring Jean 025-31899

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**Bright Sparks this January**

**TODDLERS** from 12 months upward from €17. Lots of fun at Play Group 9am to 12noon, snack included. To help your child develop to their full potential, Interactive morning for all ages indoor and outdoor activities.

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB;** School Pick Up /Hot Dinner / Supervised Homework and lots more activities each evening ... €20

**Computer Lab** open for children age to 10 years, interactive projects to boost your child's ability and increase their knowledge in a wide variety of subjects. Classes each week for school age kids ...€8

FOR MORE DETAILS OR BOOKINGS CONTACT US ON 0862653839 OR 02586799

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**Five Week Mindfulness Programme**

Commencing Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2016, 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Fermoy Community Resource Centre

Mindfulness is about being aware of the present moment, learning to let go of issues in your past and not focussing on what may or may not happen in the future. It also helps us become more aware of our thoughts and feelings, enabling us to manage them rather than allow them overwhelm us. Mindfulness is of particular benefit in dealing with anxiety, stress and depression. This course is subsidised by the Fermoy Community Health Project, the course fee per person is: €25.00 for the five sessions. Places are strictly limited for this programme. To register for this course please contact Kathleen or Liam on 025 32962 before Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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**Anam Cara** is holding its monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2016 from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs, Tivoli, Cork (weather dependent). All Anam Cara Services are available free of charge to bereaved parents.

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‘A **Table Quiz** will be held by the **Transition Year Students of St. Fanahan's College in The Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00 p.m.** €20 for a table of 4. All are welcome to attend what promises to be a very enjoyable evening.’