

CLERGY:

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Canon Fitzgerald is on Sick Call this week;

Phone Number: 087 – 2524979

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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

mitchelstownpnc@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Church of Our Lady Conceived Without Sin, Mitchelstown

Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Vigil of the Nativity: 7.30pm

Carol Recital: 9.30pm

Night Mass of Nativity: 10.00pm

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day:

Masses: 8.30am, 10am & 11.30am (note the extra 10.00am morning Mass)

N.B.: No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

Monday 26th December – **Feast of St. Stephen, 1st Martyr** Mass at 11.00am.

Weekday Masses from Tuesday 27th Dec. to Saturday 31st Dec. at 11am only.

St. Joseph's Church, Killacluig

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve:

Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day:

Mass 10.30am

Church of the Holy Family, Ballygiblin

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve:

Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day:

Mass 9.30am

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR THE PRIESTS: will be taken up on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. The Priests wish to thank all the parishioners for their generosity to their collections.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION will close on Christmas Eve before the 10am Mass and resume after the 11am Mass on Wednesday, 28th December.

Next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the Month, the Diocesan Religious Purposes Collection will be taken up at all Masses.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 8

Issue: 26 Date: Sunday 25th December 2016

Welcome to the King!

The birth of a new-born baby is always a time of wonder and joy. What will this Child turn out to be? Mary and St. Joseph must have been filled with wonder when they first saw the new-born Jesus. They had been told in an Angelic apparition that He would be a boy and that they should give Him the name of Jesus. They were told that He would be great and called Son of the Most High. They were told He would be King and that He would rule for ever. They were told He would be the one to save His people from their sins. What Mary and St. Joseph experienced at the birth of Jesus must have been indescribable. All they could do was just gaze and wonder. But then like any parents, they had to just get on with clothing, feeding, washing and soothing the little Infant. They had some unexpected visitors in a group of shepherds from the hillsides and a group from the East searching for the birth of a new-born King. This mysterious event all took place in a stable to shelter the animals.

Christmas Day is a Day of wonder. The Infant King brings us all together and He wants us to wonder and reflect. Heaven comes to visit planet earth in the innocence and simplicity of a helpless Infant. Take me in your arms and hold me, He says and receive the gift of My Peace and My Love. This is the meaning of Christmas Day.

Welcome to All Visitors: Many of you have returned to be with your family, relations and friends. We extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you all. Though your stay be short, may it be a time of great joy and happiness. May God bless you and ease any fears or worries you may have in your present circumstances or concerning your future. Jesus our God and King is with us, just ask for His protection, forgiveness and guidance and enjoy this last week of 2016.

Feast days:

Monday 26th December: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Thursday 27th December: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday 28th December: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. (Pray for the protection of mothers and their unborn).

Friday 30th December: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Sunday, January 1st, 2017 – New Year's Day:

Next Sunday is New Year's Day and is the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and a special day of prayer for World Peace. As we begin the New Year, let us begin it with Holy Mass and renew our family's commitment to weekly Mass for the year. We ask Mary, the Queen of Peace, to protect us throughout 2017 and keep us and our family safe at all time. As we turn to Mary, Queen of Peace and pray her Rosary anew. May 2017, the Year of the Centenary of the Apparitions of Fatima, bring about the fulfilment of her prophecy of a period of peace for the world.

Next Sunday: Is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. It is New Year's Day and a special day of prayer for World Peace.

Word of Thanks: We wish to thank everybody who helped prepare the Churches and Cribs for Christmas. We also thank: Eucharistic Minister, Readers, Choirs, Conductors, Musicians, Collectors, Servers, Flower Arrangers, those who prepared Altar Linen and especially the Sacristans and everybody who helped in any way.

The Priests of the Parish wish you a Holy & Happy Christmas & New Year.

C.B.S. Primary Carol Singers would like to thank the people of Mitchelstown and surrounding areas, for their generous support of their recent Carol Singing in aid of the Local Branch of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, outside Supervalu, New Square, Mitchelstown on **Thursday, 15th December**. The total amount collected was €857.15; this was presented to Eileen Whelan, Chairperson of Mitchelstown Branch of St. Vincent de Paul on the evening of the collection.

CBS Primary Christmas Draw: Thanks to the Boys, their Parents and you the Public for your support of our Annual Christmas Draw.

The results of the Draw are as follows:-

1st Prize €300 – Elma Herlihy, King Square, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

2nd Prize €200 – Lorraine Hannon, Ballyduff, Co. Waterford

3rd Prize €100–Elaine Linehan, Ballinachera, Mitchelstown

Best Wishes to everyone for 2017.

The **Parish Office** is closed for the **Christmas Holidays until Monday, 9th January 2017**. We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Newsletter during 2016 and look forward to dealing with you in 2017.

Mitchelstown Citizens Information Centre will be closed for the Christmas holidays, until Thursday, 5th January.

On behalf of **The Irish Blood Transfusion Service**, please pass on our thanks to all who contributed to the running of this Clinic. **256** Donors attended our **Mitchelstown** Blood Donor Clinic. Their generosity and commitment to helping others is very much appreciated. This precious gift brings life & hope to the patients and to their families & friends.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

James Lane, James Street

Who died recently.

May HeRest In Peace

Following a beautiful Healing Service, that was held recently in Ballygiblin Church, with Fr. T.C. Anthony, Spiritual Healing Priest, based in Carmelite Community in Kildare, a **Healing Mass & Blessing of the sick**, will be celebrated by Fr. T.C. and Canon Michael Fitzgerald in **Holy Family Church, Ballygiblin on Wednesday evening, 28th December at 5pm**. Everybody welcome.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: We thank **Team “D”**. **Team “A”** take over next weekend.

CHURCH DOOR COLLECTORS FOR JANUARY 2017: We thank those who collected during December. The Collectors for January take over next weekend.

Vigil 7.30pm: Seamus Carey, Bridget Sherlock, Jimmy Walsh & Pat Manning.

8.30am: Neil Egan, Con Hogan, William Fox & Michael Boland.

11.30am: John Casey, Eddie Lynch, Seamus Mannix & Matt Sullivan.

7.30pm: Michael Kilkenny, Verling Fitzgerald, Tom Lucey & Ger Corbett.

Christmas 2016

**Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment
In which the Son of God was born
Of the most pure Virgin Mary,
At midnight in Bethlehem,
In piercing cold.
In that hour, O my God,
Hear my prayer and grant my desires,
through the merits of our
Saviour Jesus Christ,
and of His most Blessed Mother.
Amen.**

“THE OLD CANDLELIGHT”

There's an old Irish Custom,
They practice it still,
A bright burning candle on each windowsill
Mary and Joseph, to guide on their way.
And a Ceád Míle Failte to welcome their stay.
Each home is a stable all over again,
Like Christmas morning in Bethlem.
All over Ireland on Christmas Eve night
Irish hearts still reflecting the old candlelight
Poem by the late Christy Price R.I.P.