

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 9

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CLERGY:

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Parish Office – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062. **Open 9am-12pm**

**Canon O'Leary is on Sick Call this week;
Phone Number: 087 – 2524979**

PARISH MAIL ADDRESS:

● **PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR EASTER UNTIL MONDAY, 9TH APRIL.**

- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** today at 3.00pm. As we begin this special week, we invite you and your family to contemplate the sufferings of the Lord.
- **WORD OF THANKS:** To everybody who helped with Lenten Stations and for Offerings received. **Reminder:** To return Tax Refund letters as soon as possible.
- **EASTER OFFERINGS:** for the priests of the parish will be taken up on Holy Saturday night and Easter Sunday morning.

GOOD FRIDAY KILLACLUIG: Stations of the Cross at 12.00 noon.

GOOD FRIDAY BALLYGIBLIN: Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm.

This will be the only Holy Week Ceremony in Killacluig and Ballygiblin this year, Masses on Easter Sunday in both Churches, as usual.

CONFESSIONS:

In Ballygiblin after 9.30am Mass today, Palm Sunday

In Killacluig after 10.30am Mass today, Palm Sunday

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
Eve of First Fridays & Eve of Holy Days: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

We encourage families to practice monthly Confession

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**.

The Great Week – Holy Week: For the first time in almost ninety years, public houses (bars) will be allowed to open on Good Friday. In 1927 when this closure was introduced, Catholic Ireland, after persecution and war, was expressing her gratitude to Jesus Christ, who gave up His life to save us. The original Good Friday closure was an expression of faith in Jesus Christ, by a Nation that had suffered much and had endured centuries of persecution rather than deny their Catholic identity. But the recent loss of that faith by many and effects of hostile secular and materialistic attitude pushes expressions of faith aside. The positive side to this anti-faith attitude is that all of us who value our faith must make a new heartfelt decision to express our faith and to be clearer on our reasons for our faith. Why is Holy Week so important and so special to us? Because we want to honour the God-Man, Jesus Christ, who suffered and died to save us. If He was prepared to do that for us, we must be prepared to stop our normal activities and as a Community to come together to honour Him. WE will begin with Mass on **Holy Thursday Evening**. We give thanks for the gifts of the Eucharist. On **Good Friday** we will honour the death of the Lord and we will make the Stations of The Cross. On **Holy Saturday night and Easter Sunday** we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead and profess our faith in eternal life.

Let's express our faith anew this coming week and rejoice in the wonderful gift that our faith is. We say to you O secular world: "We will not give up our faith to you": May Jesus Christ be praised!

Great News: Pope Francis to visit Ireland: Pope Francis confirmed this week that he will visit Ireland on the 25th & 26th August next, during the World Meeting of Families. Many of us remember the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1979, 39 years ago. His visit was preceded by a lot of prayer and brought the country to a standstill for three days, September 29th & 30th and October 1st 1979. There may be less numbers attending this visit, but he will be met by a more mature and purified faith. In the last 39 years our Catholic faith has been tested life never before. We are Catholics who love Jesus Christ and forgive those who have failed in the past. The will be an extraordinary event. We expect the usual ranting and negativity from the media, but we will give the Vicar of Christ, the successor of St. Peter a welcome that he will never forget.

CHANGE IN HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME: We had hoped to do the Holy Week Ceremonies in all three Churches, but that will not be possible this year. **Killacluig and Ballygiblin Churches will hold the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday only at 12noon and 7.30pm.** The other Ceremonies will be held in the Parish Church in Mitchelstown. We exhort the whole Parish to gather in Mitchelstown for the other Ceremonies. Let's express our faith together as a Parish.

