

Pray for Peace:

Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected....

Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake.

War begets war, violence begets violence.

Pope Francis

The Promised Fatima Miracle of the Sun – October 13th, 1917:

“After Our Lady disappeared into the immense expanse of the firmament, we saw beside the sun St. Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle. St. Joseph and the Child Jesus appeared to bless the world, for they traced the Sign of the Cross with their hands. A little later this apparition faded. I saw our Lord and Our Lady; it seemed to me it was Our Lady of Sorrows. Our Lord appeared to bless the world in the same manner as St. Joseph had done. This apparition also vanished, and I saw Our Lady once more, this time resembling Our Lady of Carmel.”

While the children gazed at these latter visions, the miracle of the sun occurred, the promised sign to confirm the truthfulness of the apparitions. The shepherds did not see the miracle. It was not intended for them, but for the crowd, so that all might believe.

Suddenly the rain stopped, the clouds parted like a curtain pulled back to let the rays of the sun through, which dried up all the mud and the soaked clothes of the crowd. This was sufficient to show a presence of the Blessed Virgin, but the miracle would be bigger and inexplicable. Three times the sun with its rays whirled on itself darting about with shades of yellow, blue, green, purple and this phenomenon was observed from afar. The people took on the colours of the sun. At one point, the whole crowd started screaming, terrified, confessing aloud their sins, making acts of faith and asking for forgiveness. It seemed that the sun was loosed from the firmament and was coming toward the earth to burn all the people. Then it returned to its normal position in the sky.

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most Holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message.

We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary.

By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen

MITCHELSTOWN PARISH

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Dear Parishioner,

As we come to the end of 2016, we thank you all for your support to the Parish throughout the year. We all have memories of this past year, some good and some not so good. But with the help of family, friends and the community, we all keep moving forward and avoid looking back. Let us recall the beautiful prayer: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference”. Christmas is a time to make peace, to bury the hatchet, to say “I forgive you” and “I am sorry”. Bitterness and unforgiveness does not help anybody, it poisons us all and make us unhappy. Jesus came into the world to bring peace, He died in peace and forgiveness.

All this, we can do with the Grace of God and the help of prayer. As we look to 2017, we look forward to the Centenary of the Events of Fatima, May – October 1917-2017. One hundred years ago Our Lady appeared, more radiant than the sun, in Fatima, Portugal, to three small children: Lucia, Francesco and Jacinta. It was during the 1st World War, she encouraged humanity to have faith and pray for peace. She is still encouraging us to do the very same as we approach the New Year 2017.

Thanks again to Patricia, the Parish Secretary and to so many people who help in so many ways to run the Parish throughout the year. We encourage you all to share your gifts and suggestions.

May the Lord bless us all, as we thank Him for the Blessings of 2016. May Our Lady of Fatima protect us, our family and our community.

A very Happy Christmas & New Year

Canon Michael Fitzgerald P.P., Canon O’Leary C.C. & Fr. Burke C.C.

p.s. A full outline of the Parish accounts will be sent to you in the New Year. The Envelope System has been of enormous financial benefit to the Parish for all who qualify for the Tax Refund. We are now able to claim for the self-employed as well as PAYE workers. We encourage you to continue to use the system throughout 2017. But, of course, every single contribution is appreciated and makes a big difference in running the parish effectively. Thanks again to everybody. If you do not receive a box of offering envelopes and you would like to, please contact the Parish Office.

Christmas

A season of blessings from Heaven above
A season of sharing with all those we love,
A season of caring, warmth and good cheer,
A season of hope for the coming New Year!

Christmas is for forgiveness (A quote from Pope Francis)

“In switching on the light of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the crib.”

“ ... If you have something dark in your soul, ask the Lord for forgiveness. Christmas is a great opportunity to cleanse the soul. Do not fear, the priest is merciful, forgiving all in the name of God, because God forgives everything.”



RECONCILIATION SERVICE:
PARISH CHURCH - MITCHELSTOWN
ON MONDAY, 19TH 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:
CHURCH OF OUR LADY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN,
MITCHELSTOWN:

Friday, 23rd December – 12 noon to 1pm
Saturday, 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)– 12noon to 1pm & 3pm to 4pm.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, BALLYGIBLIN:

Thursday, 15th December– Confession 7.00pm & Mass 7.30pm

ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH, KILLACLUIG:

Friday, 16th December– Confession 6.00pm & Mass 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:
PARISH CHURCH:



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 December to Saturday 31st December at 11am only.

KILLACLUIG CHURCH:

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve:
Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm
Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day:
Mass 10.30am



BALLYGIBLIN CHURCH:

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve:
Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm
Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day:
Mass 9.30am

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR THE PRIESTS: You can use the Offering envelope supplied with this leaflet. The Priests wish to thank all the parishioners for their generosity to their collections.

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

The Priests of the Parish wish You a Holy and Happy Christmas.