

V. Rev. Canon Leamy P.P., V.F.
V. Rev. Canon O'Leary C.C., P.E.
Rev. Fr. Pat O'Donoghue C.C.
Parish Office – Patricia Dwane:

CLERGY:

Phone: 025-41765.
Phone: 025-84088.
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Phone: 025-84062. **Open 9am-12pm**

Canon O'Leary is on Sick Call this week; Phone No.: 087 – 2524979

PARISH 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.

Find us on Facebook: Mitchelstown Parish

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council is mitchelstownppc@gmail.com / Facebook:
Mitchelstown PPC

● **At the end of Mass today, there will be a blessing of the Statues of the Infant Jesus.**

● **Penitential Rite with Confessions:** This Monday evening at **7.30pm** a number of Priests will be available for Confession. Let us take this opportunity to prepare our Hearts for Jesus this Christmas.

● **Other Confession Times** – Please see list over the page.

● **Flowers Decorate the Altar and Tabernacle:** A very dedicated group of women in the Parish make sure the Altars of our three Churches are suitably decorated with flowers throughout the year and for that we sincerely thank them for their faithful devotion and decorations. The **Annual Collection for flowers on the Altars** will be taken up at all Masses **THIS Weekend, 14th/15th December.**

● **Eucharistic Healing Hour** Thursday evening **8.00pm to 9.00pm.**

● **Confessions Parish Church:** Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00 – 7.30pm

The **Parish Office** will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from **Friday, 20th December to Tuesday, 7th January 2020.**

There will be **No Newsletter** the weekend of the, **28th & 29th December.**

Anyone wishing to advertise in the Parish Newsletter for the weekend of the – 4th/5th January 2020, please have your articles into the Parish Office no later than 10am Wednesday, 18th December. We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Newsletter during 2019 and look forward to dealing with you in 2020. *Wishing you all a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2020.*

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 11 Issue: 21 Date: Sunday 15th December 2019

Parish Office, Convent Hill, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, P67 E303

Office Phone: 025 / 84062 **Open:** Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Office e-mail: mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com

Thought for the Day

Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent, and is a Sunday of joyfulness in the midst of our preparations for the coming of Christ.

Joy is an elusive feeling, hard to manufacture and often surprising us in unexpected situations.

We are reminded in the readings at Mass on Gaudete Sunday that we have no need to worry or feel despair. Regardless of whether our efforts have proved successful or simply confirmed our inadequacies and lack of perseverance, Christ is coming to help us.

We can look forward with excitement and expectancy because, "People see the action but God sees the heart". We do not have to be anxious then, if we don't seem to be getting good results from our efforts, if people misinterpret our actions or even if we grow weak in the face of temptations. Until Christ comes we are living like John, in the wilderness.

Christ's coming is joyful news for all of us, perhaps especially for those who are trying hard to do their best but get distracted or forgetful. To those people and to all of us He comes to show his love and concern and to say "Don't be sad"

Who was Father Christmas? Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name 'Santa Claus' which comes from the Dutch 'Sinterklaas.' Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra in the 4th century AD. He was very shy, and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking, which a girl had put to dry by the fire! This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children's stockings.

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.

Reconciliation Service:
Parish Church - Mitchelstown

ON

THIS MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM.

Priests will be available to hear Confession.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES:

On behalf of **The Irish Blood Transfusion Service:** Please pass on our thanks to all who contributed to the running of this Clinic. **221** Donors attended our Blood Donor Clinic in **The Firgrove Hotel**. This generosity and commitment to helping others is very much appreciated. The precious gift of Blood brings life and hope to our hospital patients and their communities.

Bunscoil Na Toirbhirte would like to invite you, to join with them, for **Ms. Shinnick's Retirement Mass** in the Parish Church on **Thursday, 19th December at 11.15am** and their **Annual Carol Service** in the Parish Church on **Friday, 20th December at 11.15am**. All at Bunscoil Na Toirbhirte wishes the Community a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2020.

Carol Service in Kingston College Chapel on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.30pm. All welcome. Refreshments served.

NEWLY BAPTISED: We welcome into our Catholic Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Sophia McGrath

Glenahulla NS with friends from Shraharlain invite you to their **Christmas by Candlelight Carol Service in Killalduig Church on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm.**

CONCERN FAST - Mitchelstown Branch Concern held their Fast last month. In total €3,300 was raised. Sincere thanks to all who helped out in any way and to the many people who so generously contributed.

The **CBS Primary Performing Arts Club** will be performing at **Supervalu, New Square, on Thursday 19th December**. There will be a bucket collection in aid of the **Local Branch of the St. Vincent De Paul Society**, (Garda permit granted). **ALL WELCOME** to join with **C.B.S. Primary** staff and pupils for their **Advent Ceremony**, which will be celebrated in the **Parish Church next Wednesday, 18th December from 11.00am**. Everybody at CBS Primary wishes the Community a Very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2020.

Mitchelstown Citizens Information Centre, Marian Hall, Convent Hill, Mitchelstown **Will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from Monday, 23rd December** and will re-open on Thursday, 2nd January 2020 usual hours.

Tel: 0761 07 8030 E-mail: Mitchelstown@citinfo.ie
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 1.30p.m. to 4.30p.m.

TEAMHOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL: 4220 Gift packed boxes from Mitchelstown / Fermoy area, left for the Ukraine last Thursday 5th December. We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU**, to all who donated a box. Massive thanks goes to school children, staff, and parents of Bunscoil Na Toirbhirte, who came on board this year and donated an impressive 233 boxes. We would also like to say thank you, to our drop off points, Ozanam Centre and Farrell's Supervalu. 4220 Happy faces on Christmas morning thanks to your kindness, so until next year, Beannacht Nollaig agus go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

MITCHELSTOWN CBS SHAVE OR DYE 2019: The Student Council of Mitchelstown CBS Secondary are holding a Shave or Dye Charity Fundraiser in aid of the Irish Cancer Society on the **20th of December** in Mitchelstown CBS Secondary. Over 40 students will be participating, along with 3 members of staff. All are welcome to attend the event between 8:30am and 11am on the morning. In-house entertainment will be provided by the school band and Transition Year Musical Therapy Group. A Bake Sale will also be taking place, with all proceeds being donated to the Irish Cancer Society. Bake sale donations will be taken by the school from Thursday 19th and Friday before 9am. Hope to see you there!

RECENTLY DECEASED: The sympathy of the Parish Community is extended to the family and friends of –
Nora (Chris) Holland (née Ahern), *Skeheen*
John Brosnan, *Clonkilla*
Who died recently. *May They Rest In Peace*