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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.

Find us on Facebook: Mitchelstown Parish

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council

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Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

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

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

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A Coronavirus Prayer

Loving and healing God,

we, the people of the Diocese of Cloyne turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.

Generous God,

fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families. May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace. Comfort their family and friends. Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in our medical facilities.

Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and government that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe.

O God of creation and life,

we place ourselves in your protection.

May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.

St. Patrick, pray for us.

St. Brigid, pray for us.

St Colman, pray for us.

St Fanahan, pray for us.

May all the Saints of God, pray for us. Amen.

This is a simple and loving act of Spiritual Communion we are called to make in times which we are unable to attend Mass and receive communion.

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Dear GOD,

I bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. – Jack.

Thought for the Day

When someone dies, people gather around. They need to talk; to retrace the life of the person who has died. Nothing else seems important. Strangers don’t understand. How could they?

This was the experience of the two disciples, as they made their way to Emmaus. They were shattered. The stranger who joined them didn’t seem to understand. But at least he listened.

At the time of a funeral, religious ideas don’t always make sense. The presence of Jesus is not easily recognised. Perhaps we come closest to recognising him in those who come to sit with us, who listen, who bring sandwiches.

Jesus offers us his word, a word of consolation and hope, just as he offered it to his disciples on the road. He is with us too breaking the bread, as he was with them. We are never closer to those who have died than when we gather for the Eucharist.

Jesus made as if to go on. He was not going to impose himself. The disciples pressed him to stay for supper. They invited him in, even they might never have found out who he was. What is this saying to us today?

We pray for all those in our country and throughout the world suffering from the Corona Virus. May its victims and their families be strengthened by the support of our community of faith and restored soon to full health. We also pray for our leaders and medical personnel who deal with the virus. May we keep calm and may we join together in solidarity with care and compassion to tackle this emergency. This we ask in confidence through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Weekly Services

(All services will be Live Streamed and can be accessed through
Mitchelstown Parish Website www.mitchelstownparish.ie)

Monday– Saturday, 27th April – 2nd May

Mass 10.00am
Rosary 10.30am

Thursday, 30th April

Holy Hour 8.00pm – 9.00pm
New life in the Spirit Holy Hour. The Holy Hour on Thursday at 8pm will be livestreamed and will consist of preparation for the feast of Pentecost in asking for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit for our challenging times. You are welcome to join us in asking God to renew us individually, as a parish and as a community.

Every Friday

Divine Mercy Prayers 3.00pm

Saturday 2nd May

Sunday Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Sunday 3rd May

Mass 8.30am
Mass 11.30am

PARISH YOUCAT

In response to the need for a Catechism that was youth friendly a group of writers came together to devise a basic text based the Catechism of the Catholic Church. They spent two summer camps discussing the text with a total of 50 young people. YOUCAT came into being based on the everyday practice of the faith of young people. This is what makes it so valuable.

Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church it is written for and by young people who want to know what they believe.

YOUCAT is full of quotations, references and explanations that help the reader to understand the statements of the Church. The official YOUCAT website is www.youcat.org. The book is widely available online and in bookshops and an e-version is downloadable from www.youcat.org.

During this lockdown we are planning on making an online presentation of YOUCAT which will be presented by the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother. This will be available to connect to through the parish website mitchelstownparish.ie on Wednesday evenings from 8pm. Beginning on Wednesday 29th April. Go to parish website and click relevant link for YOUCAT.

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

Willie Slattery, *James Street*

who died recently.

May He Rest In Peace

St Angela's College, Sligo Is inviting applications for the following course beginning Autumn 2020

Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) with Online Delivery

The course is open to: Qualified primary school teachers; Qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply.

Closing date for Applications is Friday 15th May 2020. This date may be extended. For further information and application forms contact Mary Kearns, Education Department, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo

Email: mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie

Or visit Website: www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie

Pope at General Audience: This 50th Earth Day, We Must Renew Sacred Respect for the Earth.

April 22, 2020 “On Thursday’s celebration of Earth Day,” the Pope says, “we are called to renew our sense of sacred respect for the earth, for it is not just our home but also God’s home. Doing so, he underscored, “should make us all the more aware that we stand on holy ground!”

Pope Francis made this appeal during his General Audience this morning, April 22, 2020, streamed from inside the Library of the Apostolic Vatican Palace.

Recalling that Thursday marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the Pontiff dedicated his catechesis to caring for the earth.

Noting this is an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family, the Pontiff observed that “the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us, we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst.”

Francis noted that his Encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si'* deals precisely with this “Care for our Common Home,” underscoring: “We must grow in our awareness of care for our common home.”

The Pontiff decreed that we have failed to care for the earth, and failed to care for our brothers and sisters. “We have sinned against the earth, against our neighbours, and ultimately against the Creator, the benevolent Father who provides for everyone, and desires us to live in communion and flourish together.”

To emphasize the gravity of this, Francis departed from his text to ask: “And how does the earth react?”

“There is a Spanish saying that is very clear,” he noted, “it says: ‘God forgives always; we men forgive sometimes; the earth never forgives’. The earth never forgives: if we have despoiled the earth, the response will be very bad.”

Underscoring our individual responsibility, and how we ought to work to restore harmony between humanity and the environment, Francis called for “an ecological conversion that can find expression in concrete actions.” “As a single and interdependent family, we require a common plan in order to avert the threats to our common home,” he said.

Francis reminded that we can each contribute in our own small way. “In this Easter season of renewal,” Pope Francis encouraged, “let us pledge to love and esteem the beautiful gift of the *earth*, our common home, and to care for all members of our human family.”