

**PARISH PERSONNEL:**

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**Parish Radio** – The Parish Radio is operational again and if you have one at home you can tune into the Masses etc taking place in the Parish Church. It has taken a lot of time to have it repaired due to old technology and the availability of parts but thankfully we have it back again.

**2021 – Looking Back**

Baptisms in the Parish – 46

Deaths in the Parish – 44

Weddings in the Parish – 7

Confirmations in the Parish - 110

**Family New Year's Resolutions**

**Family Prayer** - You might consider a resolution to have some form of family prayer. Maybe begin with the simple but important prayers, the 'Sign of the Cross', 'Grace Before Meals' or saying the 'Angelus' together.

**Family Meals** - Plan to have a number of meals during each week where the whole family will gather around the family table for a meal, with all devices turned off.

**Attending Mass as a family** - What a gift for the family and the parish community to have families join in the parish celebration of the Eucharist.

**Prayer for Vocations**

Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you for all you have done for us. We thank you especially for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to visit and save us. We ask you to bless our family and all the people of our parish, especially those who are suffering in any way.

Encourage those in our parish whom you invite to become priests, religious and permanent deacons, and grant them the generosity of mind and heart to follow your call. May they bring good news to our world today. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Today we celebrate the Lord's Baptism...a focus on water...wet conditions on the roads mean that we need more time to slow down. No motorist, cyclist, passenger or pedestrian is exempt from Newton's Three Laws of Motion – which are also the Laws of God!

**Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter**

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**Thought for the Day**

Routine establishes itself, schools re-open. People will ask; 'how did you get over/survive Christmas' – making it sound like some sort of assault course to be negotiated. True? In it all, we may forget today that there is one more holiday worth observing – the Baptism of the Lord.

It's strange, but understandable, how we can readily recall dates of birth, but never baptism. It wasn't always that way. In scripture, only Matthew and Luke record anything about Jesus' birth, but all four gospels narrate his baptism. In centuries past the Church celebrated this day even more than the days remembering the holy birth, but we have drifted away from that practice. Sad, because in the process, we have relegated a feast that can give us a sense of enthusiasm, encouragement and absolute joy.

Baptism says loud and clear; 'I am somebody'. The world may seek to ignore you, say they have no interest or need of you. But Baptism says of you, as it did of Jesus; 'you are God's beloved son/daughter, his favour rests on you.'

At Christmas we celebrate his birth. Today we realise the work of Christmas truly begins.



**Primary School Children's Quiz**

**Question: Name the three Wise Men?**

Answers to be submitted before Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and can be placed in the letter box of the sacristy door in the Parish Church.

**Winner will be announced at 11.30pm Mass in Mitchelstown on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

## A NEW YEAR! A NEW DAY! A NEW LIFE!

Not only on New Year's but all the year through  
God gives us a chance to begin life anew,  
For each day at dawning we have but to pray  
That all the mistakes that we made yesterday  
Will be blotted out and forgiven by grace,  
For God in His love will completely efface  
All that is past and He'll grant a new start  
To all who are truly repentant at heart –  
And well may man pause in awesome-like wonder  
That Our Father in heaven who dwells far asunder  
Could still remain willing to freely forgive  
The shabby, small lives we so selfishly live  
And still would be mindful of sin-ridden man  
Who constantly goes on defying God's Plan –  
But this is the *Gift* of God's limitless love,  
A gift that we all are so unworthy of,  
But God gave it to us and all we need do  
Is ask God's forgiveness and begin life anew.

(Helen Steiner Rice)

### Through the Lens of the Gospel

1. The people were searching and John pointed them in the direction of Jesus. On your life's journey who have been the John the Baptist people for you, people who have pointed you in the right direction?
2. The Baptism of Jesus was a very special moment for him that affirmed him in his identity as Son of God and in his mission. Recall the experiences that affirmed you – either in your sense of who you are, or in relation to the direction you were taking in life.
3. The Baptism of Jesus marks a transition point in his life, and the start of his public ministry. Recall the transition points in your own life. Where did you see the grace of God at work in those times?
4. This experience of Jesus occurred when he was at prayer. What part has prayer played in opening you to being aware of God in your life? What part has prayer played in helping you through a transition point in your life?

### A Prayer for the Earth

All-powerful God,  
you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned  
and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty,  
not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.  
(Laudato Sí)

### Three Wise Women

You know what would have happened if there had been three wise WOMEN instead of three wise MEN, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time to help deliver the Baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given practical gifts.

**A Reminder to any person who is Coeliac:** One in every 200 people in Ireland has the Coeliac Condition and cannot tolerate gluten (which is part of the bread used for Holy Communion). We have low gluten hosts but they are not entirely free of gluten. If you are Coeliac speak to one of the priests of the parish and they will give you the relevant information.

**Parishes Masses on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Parish Church – Vigil 7.30pm;  
8.30am and 11.30am. Killacluig – 10.00am.**