

PARISH PERSONNEL:

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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.

Some Light Humour - A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made." Two days later the girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved." The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?" The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple: I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

Live Streaming is being upgraded this week to Broadband which should make it more efficient and eliminate the buffering that was interrupting the Streaming Service. Streaming may be not available on Wednesday and Thursday. Please check Parish website.

The **Parish Radio** is also being upgraded and we hope will return to service by Sunday week. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused due to this necessary work.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 12 Issue: 17 Date: Sunday 9th / 10th January 2021

Thought for the Day

A Searching God

He came in search of John.
He came in search of baptism.
He came in search of blessing.
He came in search of the Spirit.
He came in search of God's favour.
He came in search of God's love.

The first active step that Jesus takes as he begins his ministry is to search. He journeys from Nazareth to the River Jordan to find John, in order to be baptised. While John feels he is 'not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals', Jesus still seeks him out. He needs this moment of baptism and blessing to begin his ministry. This is his moment of divine calling and endorsement from the Father: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

We know what it is like to search. We yearn for meaning, for love, and our hearts are always searching for God. Today's first reading from Isaiah speaks of this great thirst: 'Oh come to the water all you who are thirsty'; 'Seek the Lord while he is still to be found'. We must seek constantly to bring ourselves into the presence of God, who will give us his blessing and strength for the road ahead.

'You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you' – St. Augustine.

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. At the moment this can only happen virtually, over the Live Streaming service in the parish, but hopefully we will be able to gather in church in the not too distant future.

www.mitchelstownparish.ie www.churchservices.tv/mitchelstown

In the Parish of Mitchelstown, Sunday and Weekday Masses

will be available on our Live Streaming Service. Not open to the public.

(www.mitchelstownparish.ie – Click the Live Streaming Link) at the following times.

- **Saturday evening: 7.30pm / Sunday: 8.30am & 11.30am.**
- **Monday to Saturday: 10.00am**
- **Thursday: Holy Hour 8pm**

In these difficult and uncertain times, people find strength, consolation and hope in prayer.

Churches will remain open for Personal Prayer each day:

Monday – Saturday: 11am – 6.00pm.

Sunday: 12.15pm – 6.00pm.

Do we read from the Bible at Mass? Readings from Scripture are part of every Mass. At least two readings, one always from the Gospels, (3 on Sundays and solemnities) make up the Liturgy of the Word. In addition, a psalm or canticle is sung or said. These readings are typically read from a Lectionary, not a Bible, though the Lectionary is taken from the Bible.

Do you know your Eircode? Do you know that in an emergency, a First Responder or an Ambulance can attend to you much quicker, if you know your Eircode. You can find your Eircode at www.eircode.ie. Ask someone to help you get it, if you have no access to technology. It can save a life.

Pope Francis' special greetings for the New Year

He said that as Christians, we know that things will only improve, with God's help, if we work together for the common good, "putting the weakest and most disadvantaged at the center."

"We do not know what 2021 will bring, but what each of us and all of us together can do, is to commit to taking care of each other and of creation, our common home," he said. He revealed that he was saddened to read in the newspapers there have been instances in the past days in which some people chose to ignore lockdown rules in order to "have a good vacation," without a thought for others who are suffering the consequences of the pandemic.

The Pope expressed his special greetings in particular to those "who begin the New Year with greater difficulties: the sick, the unemployed, those who live in situations of oppression or exploitation." He also said he is close to those families who are expecting the arrival of a new baby, saying: "A birth is always a promise of hope!"

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

Denis Toomey, *Church Street*. Elizabeth Potter, *Kingston Close*.

Mary Barrett (née Bailey), *Ballinamona*.

Patrick Linehan, *Ballinamona*. Paul Young, *Glenahulla*.

Mary-Josephine (Maura) Finn, *Lower Cork Street*.
who died recently.

May They Rest In Peace

New Year

Lord of my Life,
and Lord of all time, past, present and future,
a new calendar hangs on the wall with days and dates,
for a year with a new number lies ahead of me.

The coming months hold much in store:
another birthday, tours, games and shows,
classes in the subjects I like best,
homework, study, bells by the score,
and walking out the Friday evening school door.

It's a year that will be busy, Lord,
give me the health and patience I will need.

It's a year for important decisions,
give me the guidance and courage I will need.

During this year may I remember to care for others,
may I learn more and more how to be kind and fair,
may I forgive anyone who hurts me,
may I be thankful to everyone who helps me.
May I be a blessing to the people who know me.

Come to the water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he submitting to God's will. At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: We welcome into our Catholic Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Ryan O'Callaghan. Abraham Moloney.