

**PARISH PERSONNEL:**

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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**

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.

**Anam Cara** support groups provide parents a safe, comfortable environment where they have the opportunity to connect with other bereaved parents. Anam Cara is an inclusive organisation where parents do not identify themselves by their children's age, how they died, or if their death was recent or many years ago. What Anam Cara provides is a safe place for bereaved parents to connect with others who understand the intensity of the grief and loss.

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**The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal:** This year our Christmas Shoebox Appeal is going to be run differently. Due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, it is not possible to send gift-filled shoeboxes from Ireland this year.

You can do your shoebox any time up until 23<sup>rd</sup> December but from 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November, we are running the Christmas Shoebox Appeal Week. During this time we will be encouraging schools, families and communities to celebrate the Christmas Shoebox Appeal by building and donating their shoeboxes online, sharing pictures on social media using #TeamUpForTeamHope, coordinating fundraisers to purchase shoeboxes, and learning about the Appeal and the importance of giving. Although this year may be different, the need for shoebox gifts is more important than ever. Help us spread the word and continue to bring joy to children affected by poverty. Each gift-filled shoebox is €20. <https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>

**Some Light Humour**

**Question: Dad walks into a bookstore and says, “ Can I have a book by Shakespeare?”  
“Of course, sir, which one?”**

*Answer: William.*

**Question:** What did you learn in school today?

**Answer:** Not enough, I have to go back tomorrow!

**Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter**

**Volume: 12 Issue: 3 Date: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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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**Website:** [www.mitchelstownparish.ie](http://www.mitchelstownparish.ie)

**Thought for the Day**

**Unequal opportunities**

Jesus does not see things as we do. Time and time again in his parables, he turns our expectations upside down and helps us to see things in a different light.

Today, he tells the story of the landowner who pays the same wages to all his workers – those who were hired at the crack of dawn and those who only joined late in the day. Naturally, the ‘early birds’ are put out by this – they feel it is unjust, even though they received the wage they were promised.

Maybe we sympathise with the complainers. In our individualistic society, we can fall into the trap of thinking that only certain people deserve good things. Those who work hard, who are law-abiding, who make the most of opportunities – they deserve a decent standard of living. Think of how often we hear people complaining about those who are struggling, saying they do not deserve assistance or ‘handouts’? Such criticisms fail to take into account that not everyone has the same opportunities or privileges in life.

But in this parable of Jesus, the landowner treats everyone the same, regardless of their productivity. He recognises that not all of them had the same opportunity – some were just luckier than others, in the right place at the right time. God is just and generous, and he expects us to have the same respect for everyone, regardless of their position in life.

Sadly, we do not live in an equal world where everyone's dignity is respected and everyone has equal opportunities. In this Season of Creation, we are mindful in particular of the world's poor who suffer most as a result of environmental destruction – damage that is often caused by the comfortable lifestyles of others.

*‘Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.*

*The poor and the earth are crying out.’ (Pope Francis, Laudato Si’)*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**Sacristan in Mitchelstown Church** – We are in the process of putting a team together on a voluntary basis, to take on the role of Sacristan in Mitchelstown Parish Church. Fr. Pat and I took on the role of Sacristan since lockdown, but we are not now in a position to continue and we need your help. If you are interested and would like to assist it would be much appreciated. This role is open to men and women. If you would like to find out more, please have a word with me or contact the parish office. Many thanks. Canon Michael.

### Reflection

We marvel at the fact that the Korean Church was strictly a lay Church for a dozen years after its birth. How did the people survive without the Eucharist? It is no belittling of this and other sacraments to realize that there must be a living faith before there can be a truly beneficial celebration of the Eucharist. The sacraments are signs of God's initiative and response to faith already present. The sacraments increase grace and faith, but only if there is something ready to be increased.

**Annual Collection for the Education of Students for the Priesthood and Permanent Deacons**, takes place this weekend of **September 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup>**. This year the Diocese of Cloyne has 3 students preparing for priesthood. The diocese continues to promote and support our permanent diaconate programme. The cost of educating a student for one year is €25,000 (twenty-five thousand euro). The promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life must always be a priority for the whole Church. We must ensure that no man who is called to the diocesan priesthood is prevented from going forward due to lack of funds. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

### Pope Francis

“In order to regain a proper sense of our place within God's creation, and of our call to respect and care for the earth and one another, we need to learn anew the art of contemplation.”

Pope Francis made this observation at his weekly General Audience, today, Sept. 16, 2020, the third week since the virus' outbreak, where faithful could be present in the Vatican's Courtyard of San Damaso of the Apostolic Palace.

While continuing his series of catecheses on COVID 19, Francis reflected on the current pandemic in the light of the Church's Social Doctrine, and remembered “the vital role” played by the many people who generously care for others, especially the sick, elderly and most vulnerable.

This period, the Pope recognized, has made us recognize our responsibility to care for the natural world, “whose beauty is all too often ignored and its resources squandered.” “In order to regain a proper sense of our place within God's creation, and of our call to respect and care for the earth and one another,” he said, “we need to learn anew the art of contemplation.” “For when we enter into silence and contemplate our interconnected world,” he explained, “we come to appreciate the true meaning and value of all creatures, for each in its own way reflects something of God's infinite wisdom, goodness and beauty.”

Contemplation, he said, teaches us how integral we all are to the whole of creation, our calling to be faithful stewards of its riches, and our need to preserve it for future generations. Greeting the English-speaking faithful, the Pontiff remembered in a special way the elderly and infirm, and those who generously care for them. Invoking the joy and peace of the Lord, upon all of them and their families, he said: “God bless you!”

**Let your smile change the World, but don't let the world change your smile.**

**First Holy Communion** takes place next weekend in the Parish. We ask you to keep the children from C.B.S. Primary School, Bunscoil na Toirbhirte, and Glenahulla National School in your prayers.

**Drive-Thru COFFEE MORNING:** Assumpta Roche is hosting her 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Coffee Morning, “with a difference”, in aid of **Marymount Hospice**, at her home in Ballybeg, on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 9am to 8pm.** (Due to COVID-19 Regulations, this year we cannot hold it as normal, so we will do a drive thru) Everyone Welcome! Your support greatly appreciated.

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### Saint of the Day – 20<sup>th</sup> September

#### Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and Companions' Story

The first native Korean priest, Andrew Kim Taegon was the son of Christian converts. Following his baptism at the age of 15, Andrew traveled 1,300 miles to the seminary in Macao, China. After six years, he managed to return to his country through Manchuria. That same year he crossed the Yellow Sea to Shanghai and was ordained a priest. Back home again, he was assigned to arrange for more missionaries to enter by a water route that would elude the border patrol. He was arrested, tortured, and finally beheaded at the Han River near Seoul, the capital.

Andrew's father Ignatius Kim, was martyred during the persecution of 1839, and was beatified in 1925. Paul Chong Hasang, a lay apostle and married man, also died in 1839 at age 45. Among the other martyrs in 1839 was Columba Kim, an unmarried woman of 26. She was put in prison, pierced with hot tools and seared with burning coals. She and her sister Agnes were disrobed and kept for two days in a cell with condemned criminals, but were not molested. After Columba complained about the indignity, no more women were subjected to it. The two were beheaded. Peter Ryou, a boy of 13, had his flesh so badly torn that he could pull off pieces and throw them at the judges. He was killed by strangulation. Protase Chong, a 41-year-old nobleman, apostatized under torture and was freed. Later he came back, confessed his faith and was tortured to death.

Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592 when some Koreans were baptized, probably by Christian Japanese soldiers. Evangelization was difficult because Korea refused all contact with the outside world except for taking taxes to Beijing annually. On one of these occasions, around 1777, Christian literature obtained from Jesuits in China led educated Korean Christians to study. A home Church began. When a Chinese priest managed to enter secretly a dozen years later, he found 4,000 Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest. Seven years later there were 10,000 Catholics. Religious freedom came to Korea in 1883.

Besides Andrew and Paul, Pope John Paul II canonized 98 Koreans and three French missionaries who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867, when he visited Korea in 1984. Among them were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were lay persons: 47 women and 45 men.

**The Parish Office will be closed Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September**

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

Nellie Condon, *James Street,*

Peggy O'Brien (née Finn), *Corracunna,*

Susan (Sue) Moloney (née Lacey), *Mitchelscourt.*

Who died recently. *May They Rest In Peace*