

PARISH PERSONNEL:

V. Rev. Canon Leamy P.P., V.F. Phone: 025 41765.
V. Rev. Canon O'Leary C.C., P.E. Phone: 025-84088.
Rev. Fr. Pat O'Donoghue C.C. Phone: 025-84077
Parish Secretary – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062. *Open 9am-12pm*

Sick Call 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**

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 governance 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.

For the six Thursdays of Lent, there will be a Series of Mediations at the Holy Hour in our Parish Church led by Fr. Pat O'Donoghue, on understanding the Mass through the writings of the Saints. It is an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the parts of the Mass. **The Holy Hour will be live streamed on the internet.** The link can be got by going to Mitchelstown Parish Web Site.

Church Offerings & Parish Envelopes can be dropped in the box provided, in the Parish Church, or to the Parish Office during office hours (Mon to Fri. 9am to 12)

A Light Humour - A man and woman were on their first date. The woman was trying to make conversation and said, "So I hear you hunt deer." The man looked away and turned red. "What's wrong?" asked the woman. "I'm not used to someone calling me dear on the first date," the man said.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 11 Issue: 35 Date: Sunday 28th / 29th March 2020

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

Website: www.mitchelstownparish.ie

Since the 14th March and the suspending of all public Masses in our Churches, I really don't know what to say or think. COVID-19 has punched way above its weight and what seemed so far away a few weeks ago is now in every moment of every day. The world has truly become that "Global Village" people speak of and what happens on the streets of Barcelona or Boston, Shanghai or Sydney, Dublin or Dubai is all of concern to us. We are truly frightened and vulnerable, and isolation seems anything but social.

We need courage! We need faith. We need hope and we need love. We need to mind one another and to allow ourselves be minded. We need to realise that decisions taken have impacts and mistakes made have consequences. There remains though, a real need to be able to trust – trust God and one another. To have trust is maybe the gift we most need – trust that this hour, these days, weeks or months, will pass and that peace and health will be restored.

"They are the best years of your life", people used to tell us about school when we were children. "Yeah, right", we might think but surely now we recognise the truth in those words. Children should be able to enjoy the classroom and school yard, where lessons are learned for and about life. We look forward to the day when the sound of the school bell will be a welcome sound.

I look forward to hearing the servers decide who is doing what, I look forward to people, rather than empty seats and the sound of a choir and congregation, rather than the echo of my solitary voice. I have been so pleased to walk into the Church and see there the signs of ongoing prayer – candles burning in the shrines, that gives me such amazing hope. We will find our words, all of us, and they might well prove to be words of kindness and appreciation, of gratitude and giving – words of faith.

Canon Michael Leamy

Questions People Ask

Q. Was St. Patrick the first Christian missionary in Ireland? Did he really cast out the snakes?

A. Historians say that there is ample evidence that there were other missionaries, particularly in the East and South, at the same time as Patrick, possibly even before him. In his autobiographical Confession, Patrick is aware of other bishops administering baptism, confirmation and ordination. The mission of Patrick was so outstanding that he is rightly celebrated as the apostle of Ireland.

As for the snakes, since a serpent was associated with the first sin, the legend is a fanciful way of expressing the power of Christianity over sin.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES

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

In the Parish of Mitchelstown Sunday and Weekday Masses are cancelled as of 14th / 15th March 2020.

Mass will be available on our Live Streaming Service (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**

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

Churches will remain open for prayer each day:

Monday – Saturday: 10.30am – 6.00pm.

Sunday: 12.15pm – 6.00pm.

This is an occasion for all of us – especially in families - to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have been directly affected by the illness.

We should pray also for those in frontline services – especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers, including clergy – that the Lord will protect them as they serve their communities.

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.

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service seeking marriage preparation facilitators - ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation course facilitators.

If you have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church

If you have the enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team in supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

Accord wants to hear from you! Successful applicants will receive professional training and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation courses locally. Contact Jean on 025/31899 – Monday to Friday 9.30am – 1.30pm or on email accordcloyne@cloynediocese.ie for more information on or before 31st March.

An Irish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Mitchelstown Lions Club - In times of crisis Mitchelstown Lions Club are here to serve, we would like to advise our local community that we are willing to help. We can organise to collect your shopping, prescriptions, etc., or even provide a listening ear if needed. We can also help with any form filling that you may need assistance with, this will be done in strict confidence. We can be contacted through our Facebook page. **Useful Helpline Contacts:** • HSE.ie. Coronavirus updates, and general health service information. HSE phone 1850 241850 (Mon-Fri 8am - 8pm. Sat & Sun 10am to 5pm). •Pieta House Suicide help line 1800247247 (24 hour). Web site Pieta.ie. •Samaritans. 116 123. (24 hour) Your Mental Health. 1800 111 888. Web site. www.yourmentalhealth.ie (Mon-Fri office hours). •Aware Support Line (depression & anxiety). 1800 804 848 (Mon-Fri 10am-10pm) •Money Advice & Budgeting Service (MABS). 076 107 2000. (Mon-Fri 9am-8pm) •Mind Our Farm Families. 1890 130 002 (Mon-Fri 9am-6pm & Sat 10am-6pm) •Parent line. Support parents under stress. 1890 927 277 Daytime (Closed Sat & Sun)

LENTEN CALENDAR *This Lent, you are invited to pray with a line of God's Word each week and to express that Word in action each day...*

5th Sunday of Lent: Create in me a new heart, O God

Mon: Let your heart be filled with God's view of life
Tues: Fast from selfishness, go the extra mile today for someone else
Wed: Welcome the stranger, in yourself as well as in your neighbour
Thurs: Pray for those whose hearts are filled with anger and hatred
Fri: Remember those who live in darkness and despair
Sat: Give to the poor

Please be advised: The Retirement Party for Mary O'Callaghan (Principal, CBS Primary, Mitchelstown) that was scheduled for April 25th in the Firgrove Hotel, has been postponed until further notice. Please spread the word. Kind regards, The Party Planners.

Trocaire - Now more than ever, we need to support and stand up for each other. We also need to connect with each other in creative ways, taking into consideration social distancing and restricted movement. Our thoughts in Trócaire are with everyone impacted by Covid-19 in Ireland and in the countries where we work overseas.

On Holy Week, the most reflective week in the Church's year, we are inviting you to attend two interactive workshops *online*. We will hold these workshops on the Monday and Wednesday of Holy Week, in final preparation for the Easter Triduum.

• On Monday, 6th April at 11 am, Trócaire will have a **Prayer and Reflection Workshop for Families**. To register, please contact Anna Keegan

on anna.keegan@trocaire.org and Anna will then send you on the webinar link.

• On Wednesday, 8th of April at 11 am, Trócaire will hold a workshop on **Laudato Si' - Caring for our Common Home**. To register, please contact Jane Mellett on jane.mellett@trocaire.org and Jane will then send on the webinar link. The support you give to Trócaire is an act of solidarity with the people we support at a global level, and we truly are living in a time when it is clear just how connected our world is and how dependent we are on each other. It is important that we continue to support people like Madris and Angela, the women on this year's box, who faces great challenges with courage every day, even in these unprecedented times for ourselves. With that in mind, let us direct you to our resource page on our Trócaire website, where you can read and pray our resources from your own space at home. These include prayers, stations of the cross, homily notes and resources for children. <https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes>