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DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY

This Week's Calendar

Monday 29th June – Saints Peter and Paul – Apostles.

Wednesday 1st July – St. Oliver Plunkett. He became Archbishop of Armagh in 1669 and was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn in London, 12 years later. He was canonised in 1975.

Friday 3rd July – St. Thomas. The apostle who expressed his doubts later brought the Gospel to India. Patron of architects.

Saturday 4th July – St. Elizabeth of Portugal. Today is Independence Day in the USA.

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

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.

Trócaire

On behalf of Trócaire, we would like to thank your parishioners that so generously supported our appeal to return the funds from the Lenten boxes on, before and after Pentecost weekend. We received outstanding support from parishes, communities and our volunteers throughout the island of Ireland. We would like to extend a special thanks to all who have supported Trócaire over the past 47 years. This generosity ensures that we can continue to support our partners to deliver the support that marginalised communities need now more than ever.

As you know, donations made through the annual Trócaire Lenten Campaign, especially the Trócaire box, fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Millions of people who live without access to adequate water supplies, sanitation and healthcare continue to live with the threat of COVID-19.

If there is still a Trócaire box in your home, please return it to the parish office or to the Sacristy of the Church in the next week. Many thanks.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

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Thought for the Day - People like to think of themselves as friendly and welcoming. But at least in the spontaneous, instinctive sense of hospitality, times have changed. Today's would-be casual visitor should ring first, dodge the various TV soaps and sports, while being aware of the growing 'early-to-bed' regime. From gated developments to security lighting to doorbells that beckon fetchingly through a locked porch door, the edge has gone off 'Ireland of the welcomes'.

But turning to the neighbour is simply turning to the Gospel: 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me'. We may think that unlike Elisha's day (First Reading), Christianity is a non-prophet organisation – but we're very wrong. Look closer and you will see Christ gazing back at you in every face and culture. Ultimately hospitality is about attitude more than plenitude. The 19th century writer Thoreau put it this way: 'I sat at a table where rich food and wine ...but sincerity and truth were not; and I went away hungry from the hospitable board. They talked of the fame of the vintage; but I thought ... purer wine, of a more glorious vintage, which they had not got, and could not buy.' Christian hospitality is much more than cups of tea; it's about buckets of tolerance and understanding that satisfy the deepest thirst.

The Face of Christ - There is great goodness in our country and in our world. This became clear when our communities were thrown into turmoil in recent months. Long before the official initiatives sprang into action to support those in need during the nationwide 'lockdown,' stories began to emerge of the ways in which communities were mobilising to make sure their most vulnerable members were looked after. Local supermarkets delivered goods, postmen and women checked in on the elderly, neighbours made phone calls and arranged to pick up groceries and prescriptions. Through it all, we began to realise how much we depend on each other. As the noise of everyday life fell silent, we began to ponder: what is it that makes us a community? Parishes were grappling with the same question. In the temporary absence of access to Mass and the sacraments, what makes us a community of disciples of Jesus? Every effort was made to reach out to parishioners, through online Masses, prayer initiatives and practical help and support. In every parish in the country, volunteers became the face of Christ to others. In today's Gospel, Jesus lays down the markers of the Christian community. His key points are welcome and compassion. When we reach out in a spirit of welcome and neighbourliness, when we give as little as a drink of water to another person, we are on the right path. In his Easter message, Archbishop Eamon Martin said: 'In our present situation we have seen the light of the risen Christ shine out... in the kindness shown by neighbour to neighbour and in gentle and simple acts of compassion carried out by countless "Good Samaritans." Despite the uncertainty, suffering and grief caused by the pandemic, the Lord is near. – *Tiona Doherty*.

RETURN TO THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

Weekday Masses recommencing on Monday 29th June, 8.30am

(Monday, Thursday & Friday) & 10.00am. (Monday to Saturday)

Sunday Masses recommencing on 4th / 5th July, in all three Churches per usual times. - Masses will be reviewed on a regular basis.

A return to public worship will be a source of great joy and hope to our parish communities. Public health considerations will, however, require some practical adjustments to the way we celebrate our liturgies. These should not in any way compromise the integrity of the liturgy and every effort will be made to support active participation and prayerful and joyful celebration.

The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation is extended for the time being for the most vulnerable in our parish community. **If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend church services** in order to protect the safety of all in our community.

Public health authorities advise that people should maintain physical distance from each other. In our churches this will mean that every second row of seats will be kept vacant to protect all parishioners. Signage will indicate seats not to be used.

Sanitisers are available at all entrances to our churches. Please **sanitise** your hands on entering and leaving the Church.

Public Health and Government authorities advise that we must maintain a social distance from each other. In Church this means that **every second row of pews** will be closed off.

Receiving Holy Communion – Please follow the instructions that will be given at Mass and maintain a social distance from people **not from your household**. Holy Communion will be administered in the hand while standing. Priests and ministers will be wearing a face-covering while distributing Communion.

Missalettes will not be available for public use until later in the year.

Adoration Chapel will remain closed until further notice.

Church Collections will be taken up at the door of the church at you enter. Second collections will be taken up at the end of Mass also at the door.

Sacrament of Baptism can be booked through the Parish Office which is open from Monday to Friday from 9.00am – 12noon.

We ask that you refrain from congregating outside the Church after Mass. Please ensure you **always follow social distancing guidelines**.

In line with best practice within enclosed spaces, the **use of face covering is strongly recommended**.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation, as we all adapt to new ways of managing our Parish liturgies. Working together will ensure that everyone is kept safe, well and protected from the Coronavirus. We ask for your cooperation and patience as we all adjust to new ways of doing things.

KnockShrine continues as a Place of Pilgrimage during the Covid-19 crisis, pilgrimage Masses have been broadcast online from Knock Basilica every Sunday at 3.00 pm. each weekend there has been a special welcome for the pilgrimage groups that traditionally travel to the National Marian Shrine for their own celebrations. Pilgrims have been able to place their petitions online on the Knock Shrine website in advance, so that they can be placed on the altar for the Mass. Many pilgrims light candles during their visit to Knock Shrine. This service has also been made available online: a candle is lit at the outdoor candelabra for each request received.

Marshallstown Cemetery: The Annual Mass will be held in the Cemetery on Monday night, 6th July at 7.30pm.

Weekly Services

(All services in the Parish Church only, will be Live Streamed and can be accessed through Mitchelstown Parish Website www.mitchelstownparish.ie)

Monday– Sunday, 29th June to 5th July

Mass: Monday, Thursday & Friday at 8.30am .

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 10.00am

Rosary: 9.30am

Thursday,

Holy Hour: 8.00pm – 9.00pm

Saturday

Sunday Vigil Mass: 7.30pm – Parish Church

6.00pm – Ballygiblin Church

Sunday

Mass: 8.30am , 11.30am & 7.30pm – Parish Church

10.00am – Killacluig Church

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

William (Billy) McNamara, *Brigown*.

Mary Donegan (née Buckley), *Brigown Cottages*

Who died recently. *May They Rest In Peace*

CanTalk is going online from Tuesday 7th July, offering free online support groups to any adult affected by cancer in any way by cancer from the comfort and safety of your home. Thanks to our volunteers, who are willing to adapt the service, we will be holding weekly support group meetings via Zoom as Covid Restrictions make it impossible to continue face to face groups for the present. You don't have to do this alone. To book your place follow this link

(<https://cantalkcancersupport.wufoo.com/forms/z5b2xpv1i1ipz6/>)

Further details and information are available on the website: www.cantalk.ie or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CanTalk15/>

Cork Autism Online Conference 2020 - Autism: Beyond Behaviours. Sunday, October 11th. This online conference offers interventions, skills and strategies to support autistic people with behaviours of concern. Suitable for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistics, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. Visit: www.autismcork.ie