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

**Find us on Facebook: Mitchelstown Parish**

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council is [mitchelstownppc@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownppc@gmail.com) / Facebook: **Mitchelstown PPC**

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.

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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/>

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**Cork Autism Online Conference 2020 - Autism: Beyond Behaviours.** Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. This online conference offers interventions, skills and strategies to support people on the autism spectrum. Suitable for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistics, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. Visit: [www.autismcork.ie](http://www.autismcork.ie)

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**Some Light Humour** - A recent scientific study showed that out of 2,293,618,367 people, 94% are too lazy to actually read that number!

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**Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter**

**Volume: 12 Issue: 5 Date: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Parish Office, Convent Hill, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, P67 E303

**Office Phone: 025 / 84062 Open: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

**Reflection**

**Every season hath its pleasure; Spring may boast her flowery prime,  
Yet the vineyard's ruby treasures brighten Autumn's sob'rer time.**

*Thomas Moore.*

This week, we had the feast day of St. Michael (29<sup>th</sup> September), which in times past, was a quarter day of the year, signifying the end of the harvest season, and the settling of debts, before the autumn season. This year, it comes at a time, when we seem to be on the brink of entering into possible new restrictions, and much of the harvest of what we normally gain from the work of our shared community life, seems to be less. Our readings this Sunday, centre on the metaphor of the vineyard, and how God entrusts His vineyard to us, for us to work, to produce its harvest to strengthen our lives and to cheer our hearts. It is up to us to work and contribute to a good harvest, drawing from the bounty God gives in the world around us. A vineyard in the times of the bible was something that required much work and intensive farming, it needed constant pruning, fertilising and tying back. This was true especially in the rocky soil of Israel, where the extra care was needed, such as building retaining walls to stop soil erosion, having security against thieves, dressing vines, which was grafting fruiting vines onto sturdy plants and having a vine press to crush the grapes. There is a lot of work involved, but the final product of wine was a pleasure for them and sign of the joy and the fruit of our shared work God wants to give to us. The message for us, is to keep up our own contribution as we can, even in trying times, trusting, that if we include God in what we do, the harvest of the joy and purpose promised, will be given to us in time. This vineyard God gives us to tend in our parish is up to all of us to continue to do our part, as to our own individual skills, to protect and nurture what is good, and to graft that which gives life onto that which will sustain its growth. We can entrust all our hard work in these times to God who can work all things to the good.

*Fr. Pat O'Donoghue*

**Behold the rain which descends from Heaven upon our vineyards,  
and which incorporates itself with the grapes to be changed into  
wine; a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy.**  
*Benjamin Franklin*

**Congratulations to the Children** from Ballygiblin National School, who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday.

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### **Day For Life**

Day for Life is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. This year's Day for Life is celebrated on 31 May in Scotland, 21 June in England and Wales and 1 October in Ireland. Read more in our 'About' section.

'Moses' invitation rings out loud and clear: "See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live" (Dt 30:15, 19).' Evangelium Vitae, 28

The theme for Day for Life 2020 is Choose Life, with a particular focus on protecting mothers and unborn children, and bringing hope and healing after abortion.

How can Catholic parishes and communities be places of welcome, assistance and support? On this twenty-fifth anniversary of St John Paul II's letter Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), we renew the call for respect and celebration of all life. The parish is a 'family of families' (Amoris Laetitia, 87). We ask our parishes to be places of welcome, where we can support pregnant women and celebrate the precious gift entrusted to them. We recognise that family is often 'a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems' (Amoris Laetitia, 57). We want to provide support for women and men who face difficult circumstances, as well as those who have experienced abortion and seek comfort in the Lord and their community.

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### **Autumn Stations 2020**

We plan to hold the Autumn Stations 2020, the last Weeks of October and early November. Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic and the restrictions associated with it, we will be holding All Stations in the 3 Churches, there will be no house Stations. Our plan is, to hold a few areas on the same night.

In order to prepare for the Stations, we once again would appreciate the assistance of distributors in each location to give out the envelopes.

To cut down on having to contact you again before Christmas, we will have the Christmas envelopes and next year's weekly boxes also, ready for distribution when giving out the Autumn Envelopes. We thank you for your help in this regard. Patricia will text you when they are ready.

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***"When you reflect upon what I tell you in the depths of your heart, you profit more than if you had read many books. Oh, if souls would only want to listen to My voice when I am speaking in the depths of their hearts, they would reach the peak of holiness in a short time."St Faustina.***

**Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska's Story** – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Saint Faustina's name is forever linked to the annual feast of the Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and the Divine Mercy prayer recited each day at 3 p.m. by many people. Born in what is now west-central Poland, Helena Kowalska was the third of 10 children. She worked as a housekeeper in three cities before joining the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1925. She worked as a cook, gardener and porter in three of their houses.

In addition to carrying out her work faithfully, generously serving the needs of the sisters and the local people, Sister Faustina also had a deep interior life. This included receiving revelations from the Lord Jesus, messages that she recorded in her diary at the request of Christ and of her confessors.

At a time when some Catholics had an image of God as such a strict judge that they might be tempted to despair about the possibility of being forgiven, Jesus chose to emphasize his mercy and forgiveness for sins acknowledged and confessed. "I do not want to punish aching mankind," he once told Saint Faustina, "but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart." The two rays emanating from Christ's heart, she said, represent the blood and water poured out after Jesus' death.

Because Sister Maria Faustina knew that the revelations she had already received did not constitute holiness itself, she wrote in her diary: "Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect, but rather the intimate union of the soul with God. These gifts are merely ornaments of the soul, but constitute neither its essence nor its perfection. My sanctity and perfection consist in the close union of my will with the will of God."

Sister Maria Faustina died of tuberculosis in Krakow, Poland, on October 5, 1938.

Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1993, and canonized her seven years later.

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### **Mitchelstown Social Club Zoom sessions for Autumn/Winter 2020.**

This is a difficult time for people worldwide as the outbreak of Covid-19 forces us to change the way we live in order to stay safe and to protect each other. In the midst of all this, Mitchelstown Social Club will continue to provide opportunities for older people in Mitchelstown and surrounding areas to be more active; more visible; more creative; more connected; We have a variety of activities available for people during this strange time, keeping active while staying at home and getting creative in new and inventive ways.

Monday's at 11am we have Zoom 'Go for Life' Exercise programme for Adults.

Monday's at 2.30pm Zoom Bingo

Tuesday's at 11am we have Healing with the Arts with our Tutor Niamh Towey.

Tuesday's after dinner at 2.30pm we have Singing for the Brain with Kathleen Griffin.

All are welcome and if you need training to get set up on Zoom contact Hannah Casey 086 0566385 or Kathleen Griffin at 086 2469524. All are welcome.

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**NEWLY BAPTISED:**We welcome into our Catholic Community,through the Sacrament of Baptism –  
**Grace Nolan**