

# Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

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Date: 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026

**Twelfth Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**PARISH NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN JULY AND AUGUST.**

## Thought for the Day

### Do Not Be Afraid

The second part of Jesus' instruction to the disciples as they set out for their mission, is the text of the Gospel today. The opening sentence sets the tone for the disciples' mission: Do not be afraid – a phrase which is repeated twice more in this Gospel passage.

The first reading from the Old Testament book of the prophet Jeremiah reflects Jeremiah's experience of rejection – no one wants to hear the message God has called him to give. In fact, they want to kill him. Jeremiah sounds desperate and afraid. But then the reading turns into a prayer of confidence and trust in God's companionship and spiritual protection – God and Jeremiah will win out.

Preaching in the name of God is a risky and frightening business, as Jesus knows. So, he urges the disciples not to be afraid of small beginnings, of those who can kill only the body, or that God would abandon them. He reminds them that God is always mindful of them and accompanies them on their mission. He urges them to be brave and bold in proclaiming the truth about God and in confessing their belief in Jesus before others.

Matthew's audience, like Jesus, Jeremiah and the disciples, knew all about persecution and rejection. Their question is also ours: if we allow fear to silence us, how will the Good News of Jesus Christ ever be heard in the world? If we don't speak, who will? If we don't act, who will?

It is not really a matter of talking at people and quoting at length from the Bible. As St Francis of Assisi said, 'Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words'.



### Happy Father's Day!

On Father's Day weekend, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to St. Joseph. As we celebrate the gift of fathers and honour St. Joseph, we also recognize that Father's Day can be a difficult holiday for many. We hope this spiritual bouquet provides an opportunity to pray for the intentions brought to your heart by the occasion.

**Some Light Humour** - Father Sullivan's Sunday sermon was "Forgive Your Enemies." He asked how many of the congregation have forgiven their enemies? About half held up their hands. He then repeated his question. Now about 80% held up their hands. He then repeated his question once more. All responded, except one elderly lady. "Mrs. O'Malley, are you not willing to forgive your enemies?" "I don't have any." "Mrs. O'Malley, that is very unusual. Please tell the congregation how a person cannot have a single enemy in the world?" Mrs. O'Malley replied, "I'm ninety-three-years-old and I outlived every one of those witches."

**Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage** celebrating the world day for grandparents and the elderly. **Sunday, 26th July 2026**- Knock Shrine commencing at 2.30pm with the anointing of the sick. A day of grace and blessing for the whole family as we honour grandparents and the elderly. All are welcome. Visit our website for resources: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org). Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland. Director of Music Una Nolan and Choirs. Guest Soloist Dana Rosemary Scallo.

**Day for Life** - On this year's Day for Life, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, we reflect on the wonder of human life from the moment of conception. We remember how the LORD Jesus Christ Himself sanctified and experienced the beginning of life in the world as an unborn child, hidden in the womb of Mary. Mary knew that she was carrying the Son of God – God and man – as soon as He was conceived. John the Baptist leapt in his mother Elizabeth's womb when Mary greeted her. Our Lady treasured Our Lord in her heart and womb until His birth. To read the full bishops' message visit [www.councilforlife.ie](http://www.councilforlife.ie)

**National Pilgrimage for Life** – The National Pilgrimage for Life, organised by the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, will be celebrated on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June in Knock Shrine. Mass will be celebrated at 3.00pm in the Basilica, during which the Anointing of the Sick will take place. Main celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Niall Coll. We invite you to join us in Knock to celebrate the gift of life and to pray for the protection of all human life.

### **Prayer for Life Day for Life • 21 June 2026**

Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendour and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen. [nationalshrine.org](http://nationalshrine.org)

**Collection for Sick and Retired Priests:** The annual collection for retired priests will take place at all Masses this weekend of June **20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> June 2026**. The retirement age for priests of this Diocese is 75 years. A generous response to this collection will help the Diocese to continue to be able to care for our retired priests, many of whom have given over fifty years of service to us. You may also help to support our retired priests in the following ways: 1) Make a donation directly to the fund. 2) Consider making a bequest for this purpose in your Will. The Cloyne Sick Priests Benevolent Fund is a registered Charity and its accounts are audited each year and submitted to the Charity Regulator. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated by our sick and retired priests.

**St. Fanahan's Rosary Group** meet every Thursday night at 6:30pm in Marian Hall.  
All welcome.

**Life in the Spirit Talks** – facilitated by MIR Ministries in Glanworth Church on Friday nights at 8pm. Started Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Everyone warmly welcome. Followed by light refreshments. For further information contact Geraldine 086-1610330.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Fr John Keane, Spiritual Director for Eucharistic Adoration in the Cloyne Diocese will be coming to the Church of Our Lady Conceived without Sin, Mitchelstown on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June** to lead a Holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. All are invited to come.

**Dates for your Diary:**

• **Marshallstown Cemetery:** The **Annual Mass will be held in the Cemetery on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.**

**Sexuality and LGBTQ+ Inclusion**

Many felt the Church needs to do more to welcome and respect LGBTQ+ people. There was a desire for open, honest conversation, grounded in the dignity of every person and shared baptismal identity, reflecting a growing awareness of how the Church speaks and acts in these areas shapes its credibility. Calls for compassion, dignity, and pastoral care were persistent, though often entangled with tension. Some stressed the importance of belonging for LGBTQ+ persons, noting “discussions on sexuality revealed discomfort among some, but also a desire among others for the Church to be more compassionate and to listen to personal stories.” Debate existed over emphasis and approach, with feedback noting that “on LGBTQ+ inclusion, some feared that categorisation increases marginalisation, while others called for explicit outreach.”

From; [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) - *Baptised and Sent #17*

**Alzheimer Society of Ireland** are currently recruiting for a Care Worker at their Mitchelstown Day Centre. 1 to 2 days a week. Experience working with older people desirable, training will be provided.

Please contact Geraldine on 0872073719 or email [geraldine.ogrady@alzheimer.ie](mailto:geraldine.ogrady@alzheimer.ie)

**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](http://www.eircode.ie). Ask someone to help you get it, if you have no access to technology. It can save a life. Put it on your fridge door.

**Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

- Monday to Friday: Rosary: 9:30am Mass: 10am
- Friday: Divine Mercy: 3pm.

**Confessions 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

**Parish Masses on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Parish Church** – Vigil 7:30pm; 8:30am and 11:30am. **Killacluig;** – 10:00am.

Please note Mass times are displayed on Church Noticeboards.

**Radio Maria** - Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting - Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – do join our growing faith family! Here’s how you can listen:

1. Via Digital TV - Saorview Channel 210
2. Download our FREE App “RADIO MARIA IRELAND”
3. Streaming on our WEBSITE - [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie)
4. Via our ‘Listen Live Radio’ link on our Facebook Page.
5. Via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).
6. Via DAB Radio in Leinster area.

Why not drop a line to our Spiritual Director, Fr Des Farren by text on 089-4672000, by phone on 01-4123456, or come and pay us a visit at Radio Maria Ireland, St. Anthony’s Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. D22 R7W2

**Parish Donations:** For anyone who would like to make a contribution to the upkeep of our Parish, these are the Bank Details. Mitchelstown Parish Church 1A/C.

IBAN NO: IE93 BOFI 9029 4412 1426 12

BIC NO: BOFIE2D

Please put your name and address on the Reference, or if you have a parish envelope number, please put that in the reference section and we can add it to your account on our envelope system.

If sending in a cheque, please make it out to ‘Mitchelstown Parish’.

**PARISH PERSONNEL:**

Canon Michael Leamy P.P. Phone: 025-41765.

Fr. Tommy Lane C.C. Phone: 087-0660615

Parish Secretary – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062.

**Emergency Calls only.: 087 – 2524979**

**Parish Office Open 9am -11.30am Monday to Friday only,  
*Parish office opening hours may vary over the summer months.*  
(Closed Holydays and Public Holidays)**

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

**Office e-mail: [mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com)**

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

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- All Anniversary/Months Mind Masses and Weddings must be booked directly with one of the Priests of the Parish; they are not booked through the Parish Office.
- All Baptisms must be booked directly with Patricia in the Parish Office.
- Signed Mass Cards for all occasions are on sale in the Parish Office (Cash only).
- When writing Cheques to the Parish, please issue them to ‘Mitchelstown Parish’