

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

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Date: 5th & 6th September 2026

Twenty Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Thought for the Day

Who do I need to talk to?

The nurse doing her final rounds found the patient in Room 2 stable, his pulse strong, with very little indication of his heart attack that morning. He looked up with tear-filled eyes; 'Nurse, would you phone my daughter? Tell her I've had a slight heart attack. I live alone and she is the only family I have.

She adjusted his nasal oxygen; 'Of course, I'll call her.' He insisted: 'As soon as you can - please.' He was breathing too fast.

She phoned the daughter – Jane, from the next-of-kin list. The answering voice screamed: 'No! He's not dying, is he?' the nurse's talk of 'stable condition' didn't convince even herself.

Father and daughter had a year-old row over her boyfriend. Her departing words to her father were 'I hate you'. She wanted to come for forgiveness for so long. All she needed was 30 minutes to get to the hospital.

Just then the alerts sounded for Room 2. Another cardiac arrest which sent the emergency team scrambling to attempt resuscitation and then... We'll never know what happened. Did she/he make it?

More importantly, you know who you need to reconcile with. Life is as fragile as a snowflake. But delicate as life is, relationships can be mended. There is not a moment to spare. Do it now, do it as in the Gospel – privately and in a spirit of love.

Prayer

Father in Heaven, give us the grace to be willing to forgive those who have sinned against us.
And thank you for forgiving us our sins. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Back to School!

We want to welcome back all our schools, as they reopened over the last few days. After having the best summer weather-wise, we hope all schools staff and pupils enjoyed the break. As the school community face the beginning of another school year there is naturally a certain feeling of apprehension and maybe even fear. As we all know from experience after a couple of days we get back to normal again.

The Lord tells us not to worry about tomorrow but to handle all worries one day at a time. Begin every day by turning to God in gratitude and trust, ask His help and the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit will give strength to do what needs to be done. God bless all our schools for the coming year and may it be a good one.

Some Light Humour – A little boy looks worried on his way to his first day of school. His dad asks him, "What's wrong?" Nervous, the boy asks, "How long do I have to go to school for?" "Until you're 18," says the father.

The little boy nods and thinks about this quietly. When they get to the front gates of the school, the little boy says, "Dad, you will remember to come and get me when I'm 18, won't you?"

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 7th to 11th September 2026

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

Confessions 12th September 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

Parish Masses on Sunday 13th September 2026

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

Please note Mass times are displayed on Church Noticeboards.

Live streaming of Masses in the Parish Church, please use the following link:

<https://mitchelstownparish.ie/livestream>

Season of Creation 2026

“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children.” *Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.*

Theme: “Living Water”

This year’s theme, “Living Water”, explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God’s sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

“Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” (Ezek 47:9,12)

This year’s theme is “Living Water”. We hope that the following resources will help you and your parish community to celebrate the Season of Creation 2026. These resources are compiled by the Laudato Si’ Working Group of the Irish Bishops’ Conference & Trócaire.

You can find further resources on the international Season of Creation website: www.seasonofcreation.org

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

GUIDED HOUR OF ADORATION WITH FR. JOHN KEANE

If you feel you need an hour of peace in your life come to St. Patrick's Church, Fermoy on Monday September 21st at 7pm. Fr. John Keane, a priest of the Cloyne Diocese, will be guiding us in an hour of Adoration. We will begin with praying the Rosary at 7pm and at 7.30pm Fr. John will guide us in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It will be an hour of resting with Jesus, asking Him for help in our everyday lives or with any heavy burdens we must carry.

Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland:

Other Themes Noted

Several other themes arose though they were less dominant in the overall conversations: Abuse, Care for Creation and Social Justice, Clergy, and Evangelisation and Mission. The theme of abuse was named as an ongoing wound, with participants calling for continued accountability and transparency, urging that *“healing must remain a priority for those affected by abuse.”* Another gathering stressed that *“the Church must acknowledge past wrongs openly and continue to create safe spaces for victims and survivors to be heard.”* Care for creation and social justice were mentioned but seen as underrepresented, with some expressing disappointment that *“Laudato Si’ and the call to ecological conversion were barely mentioned,”* urging the Church to integrate these concerns more fully into parish life. There was concern about declining numbers of clergy and the need for pastoral support, with one comment noting, *“The number of priests is falling and many are overworked; they need support and encouragement from the laity,”* while another observed, *“we need to care for the wellbeing of our clergy as they carry heavy burdens.”* Evangelisation and mission were also discussed, with a desire for renewed outreach to seekers and the religiously unaffiliated. As one group put it, *“We need to go out to the peripheries, not just wait for people to come to us,”* while another stated, *“Mission means meeting people where they are and sharing the joy of the Gospel.”*

From; www.synod.ie - *Baptised and Sent* #20

We are sharing information sent to us from Ballyhoura Development Clg, about an upcoming **Understanding Your Child** programme taking place in **Mitchelstown Primary Care Centre**. This free **10-week programme** is designed to help parents better understand their child's emotions, behaviour and communication, while building confidence in responding to their child's needs. It offers a supportive and welcoming group environment where parents can learn and share experiences with others. The programme is suitable for parents of young children up to age 8. If people would like to find out more, please contact the facilitators on **025 45300** for an informal chat.

Mitchelstown Community Council Elections 2026

If anyone would like to volunteer and join the community council, please put your name and contact number in an envelope and hand it into Forrest Hall during office hours and we will be in contact with you. All candidates must be over eighteen years of age and living within the parish of Mitchelstown.

Seed Saving Workshop - Mitchelstown Library | Saturday September 12th | 11.30am

Join Éidín Griffin, from Rebel Seed, for a skills workshop focusing on the process of saving seeds. These skills can be applied at home or in the local community to propagate and grow new seeds from your existing plants.

Booking is required to attend this free event. For enquiries or to book contact Mitchelstown Library on the following details. T: 025-41939 | E: mitchelstownlibrary@corkcoco.ie

ALL WELCOME to join with **C.B.S. Primary** staff and pupils for their **Annual Start of Year Mass**, to ask God's blessing as they begin a new School Year. This Mass will be celebrated in the **Parish Church on Friday, 11th September at 11.30am**. All at CBS Primary would like to sincerely thank the people of Mitchelstown and its environs for their continued support and co-operation.

The Irish Cancer Society is seeking compassionate volunteer drivers to join our pool of drivers. As a volunteer driver you would be bringing patients undergoing chemotherapy to the hospital and back home for their treatment. Gifting your time means that cancer patients will have comfortable (one on one) transport to attend appointments for their lifesaving treatment. If you can spare 2 days per month, have a valid driving licence, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you are the perfect candidate to make a significant difference. The Irish Cancer Society will provide you with training before you start as a driver for us. Your generosity not only eases the journey for many during a challenging time but also offers comfort and support when it's needed most.

For more information and to become a volunteer driver, please contact Monica or Emily at volunteer@irishcancer.ie

The feedback we receive from patients that have relied on the Transport Service in the past is heart-warming and underlines the need of its existence. We would be extremely grateful for your support, as it will help us to continue supporting those who are impacted by cancer.

Pre- Marriage Courses – www.accord.ie

Counselling: Accord offers a safe, professional and confidential process facilitating couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriage & relationship. For appointment, please ring Carolyn at our Fermoy Office - 025-31899.

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'.

<u>PARISH PERSONNEL:</u> 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, (Closed Holydays and Public Holidays) Parish Office, Convent Hill, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, P67 E303 Office e-mail: mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com Parish Website: www.mitchelstownparish.ie <u>FOR YOUR INFORMATION:</u> •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'
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