

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

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Date: 12th & 13th September 2026

Twenty Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Thought for the Day

Because we have been forgiven, we must forgive.

A remarkable story of generosity featured on Joe Duffy's **Liveline: Call Back** programme on RTÉ a few years ago. It was the story of Shane O'Neill, who had a history of drugs offences and ended up serving time in prison in Belgium. On release from prison, he went to the Irish Embassy to ask for the price of a flight to return home, but was turned down. Another Irish man, Charlie Kiernan, overheard the exchange and decided to help, booking him a flight and buying him breakfast. When Shane asked how he could repay him, Charlie suggested he 'pay it forward'. The kind gesture was the catalyst for Shane turning his life around.

It is this sort of generous love that we hear about in today's Gospel, in the parable told by Jesus. The master who cancels the servant's debt does so out of compassion and generosity. It is of no benefit to him to pardon the debt. He will be down ten thousand talents – one talent was worth more than 15 years' wages of a labourer, so we are talking about a large sum of money! The servant is grateful, but not so grateful that he is willing to take pity on a fellow servant who owes him just one hundred denarii – one denarius was the usual day's wage for a labourer.

The parable speaks to us about the kindness of God, but also what he expects from us. Because we have been loved, we must love. Because we have been forgiven, we must forgive.

Some Light Humour – “Why did the pencil forgive the eraser? Because it knew everyone makes mistakes!”

The Pope's Monthly Intention - *For the care of water* – Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Prayer for the love of Creation

Creator God,
You show us what love is
through the beauty of the earth
and the gift of your Son.
For the love of...
animal and plant
mountain and forest
sea and city
woman and man
friend and family
those who live far from us
and those yet to be born.
Move us to live more simply,
to protect the earth
and to speak up for those in need.
Amen.

Sarah Hagger-Holt/CAFOD

Trócaire's new short documentary - Still Not Safe: Life in Gaza during the 'ceasefire'. - Two million people in Gaza continue to face unimaginable daily challenges: securing food and clean water, finding functioning hospitals, gathering the strength to mourn loved ones amidst the ruins of collapsed homes, schools, places of worship and universities. In the face of such profound loss, urgent questions remain: where is dignity, and where is justice? Our documentary which will be part of this year's nationwide Culture Night event.

Where: Main Library, Cork City Library, Grand Parade, Cork T12 NT99

When: Friday, 18 September 2026 at 7.30pm

Over the last few years, the community in Cork has shown incredible warmth and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Palestine through prayers, donations, and activism. We would be very grateful if you could share the details of this upcoming event with your parishioners, as we know many would welcome the opportunity to come along and show their support. Please see Church noticeboard for more details.

Please Note the Parish Office will be closed Thursday, 17th September

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 14th to 18th September 2026

•Monday to Friday: Rosary: 9:30am Mass: 10am

•Friday: Divine Mercy: 3pm.

Confessions 19th September 2026

•Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

Parish Masses on Sunday 20th September 2026

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

Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland:

Diverging Themes: Points of Tension and Differing Perspectives

21. Even as consensus emerged on many fronts, inherent divergences also remained. The next section highlights areas where convictions clashed and where reform was both demanded and resisted.

Abuse and Accountability

22. The issue of abuse revealed tension. While many saw the need for open acknowledgment and repentance as essential to healing and credibility, others avoided the topic entirely: “In some cases, the topic of abuse was avoided, with little or no mention during group discussions.” Another noted that “some participants appeared reluctant to engage on the issue, moving the conversation on to other topics.” Among those addressing it, there was insistence that healing remain a priority, and the Church must take responsibility for past wrongs: “Several groups also named the ongoing impact of abuse and the need for the Church to be proactive in addressing all forms of abuse, including bullying and elder abuse, as part of its pastoral and healing mission.” Some submissions stressed “continued accountability and transparency in safeguarding” as an ongoing, non-negotiable responsibility.

From; www.synod.ie - *Baptised and Sent* #21 & 22.

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.

Drive-Thru COFFEE MORNING: Assumpta Roche is hosting her 32nd Annual Coffee Morning, in aid of **Marymount Hospice**, at her home in Ballybeg, on **Thursday 24th September, from 9am to 9pm**. Everyone Welcome! Your support greatly appreciated

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.

Culture Night on September 18th at Mitchelstown Library, with the Down Memory Lane team. Take a nostalgic trip through song, story and fun. Enjoy an hour or so of stories, banter and singing old favourites.

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.

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.

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,
(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

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'