

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

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Twenty Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Thought for the Day

God's Love and Blessings to All.

Many of Jesus' parables are difficult. We are invited to place ourselves in the story. Which character do we identify with? To which group would we belong? Sometimes we find ourselves sympathising with the character who turns out to be in the wrong. God's ways are not our ways!

The parable of the labourers in the vineyard is one of those tricky ones. We are drawn into the story, and we feel some sympathy for the crowd who end up grumbling at the landowner. These early birds who were hired at daybreak have done the most work. They have toiled all day in the heat, doing far more labour than those who were hired only at the last minute – yet they all receive the same pay. It's hardly fair, is it?

But the landowner makes his point: 'Why be envious because I am generous?' Of course, Jesus anticipates the discomfort of his audience. He uses parables to gently pull the rug from under their feet, to challenge their assumptions, and offer them a new way of thinking that is focused not on themselves, but on the wider community.

Place yourself in the story. If you identify with the grumblers, ask yourself why. Why should we be concerned about what others are getting? Who are we to judge what others deserve? Surely we, too, should want God's love and blessings to be extended to everyone!

Some Light Humour – After he finished his route, a bus driver had to explain to the supervisor why he was ten minutes late. "I was stuck behind a big truck". "But yesterday you were ten minutes early," reminded the boss. "Yeah," the bus driver replied. "But yesterday I was stuck behind a Porsche."

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.

St Pio of Pietrelcina - Feast, 23 September - Pray, pray to the Lord with me, because the whole world needs prayer. And every day, when your heart especially feels the loneliness of life, pray. Pray to the Lord, because even God needs our prayers.
St Pio of Pietrelcina

Reflection

God is not fair. In any case, it is not fair in human terms. For us, fairness means getting paid in proportion to the work done. For God, justice is equal pay. Where does this discrepancy come from? We value man in proportion to what he gives us. God values man because of his existence. For us, the existence of another human being has value when something results from this existence. For God, the existence of each of us is in itself a priceless value. In today's Gospel, employment in a vineyard means accepting Love as your way of life. Whoever has done it has done EVERYTHING and 'earned' the highest wage.

Fr George • timeofmercy.com

Today's Gospel reflects the situation of the early Church. The first Christians were all Jews. Before their conversion they had been trying to live according to the requirements of their Jewish faith. They belonged to a people who had thousands of years of religious history; they were God's own people. Then, Gentiles began to be admitted into the community. Some of these people probably came from totally pagan environments. They may have lived very immoral lives and yet, once accepted and baptised, they enjoyed all the privileges of the community. Somehow, it did not seem right.

But this is the justice of God which we need to learn. Without exception, he gives his love – all of his love – to all those who open their hearts to it. It does not matter whether that happens early or late. One reason for that is because God's love can never be earned, only accepted. And, as the previous story indicated, the genuine needs of all should be met. The fact that the latecomers were only employed at the last hour does not make their needs any less than those who came earlier. God's justice is measured by our needs, not by mathematical divisions.

What each of the workers received was a symbol of the love of God, who is the vineyard owner. All – early arrivals and latecomers – got exactly the same, the love of their Master and Lord. There are not various degrees of that love. It is always 100 percent. God is Love; he cannot not love and he cannot not love totally. He cannot and will not give more of that love to one than another.

livingspace.sacredspace.ie

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina's Story – Feast Day – Wednesday 23rd September

In one of the largest such ceremonies in history, Pope John Paul II canonized **Saint Pio of Pietrecina** on June 16, 2002. It was the 45th canonization ceremony in Pope John Paul's pontificate. More than 300,000 people braved blistering heat as they filled St. Peter's Square and nearby streets. They heard the Holy Father praise the new saint for his prayer and charity. "This is the most concrete synthesis of Padre Pio's teaching," said the pope. He also stressed Padre Pio's witness to the power of suffering. If accepted with love, the Holy Father stressed, such suffering can lead to "a privileged path of sanctity."

Many people have turned to the Italian Capuchin Franciscan to intercede with God on their behalf; among them was the future Pope John Paul II. In 1962, when he was still an archbishop in Poland, he wrote to Padre Pio and asked him to pray for a Polish woman with throat cancer. Within two weeks, she had been cured of her life-threatening disease. Born Francesco Forgione, Saint Pio of Pietrecina grew up in a family of farmers in southern Italy. Twice his father worked in Jamaica, New York, to provide the family income.

At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After he was discovered to have tuberculosis, he was discharged. In 1917, he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, 75 miles from the city of Bari on the Adriatic.

On September 20, 1918, as Saint Pio of Pietrecina was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side.

Saint Pio of Pietrecina rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of people soon began coming to see him. Each morning after a 5 a.m. Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions. In time his confessional

ministry would take 10 hours a day; penitents had to take a number so that the situation could be handled. Many of them have said that Padre Pio knew details of their lives that they had never mentioned. He died on September 23, 1968, and was beatified in 1999.

Reflection

The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord.”

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 21st to 25th September 2026

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

Confessions 26th September 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

Parish Masses on Sunday 27th 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>

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

Legion of Mary Annual Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday, 27th September. Bus will stop in Mitchelstown New Square at approximately 7:15am. To book a place contact 087-6374802.

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.

Autumn Station Masses will commence on **Tuesday, 13th October 2026.** The Station Masses are offered for the families of the Station area to invoke God's Blessings in all we do. We encourage you all to participate in the Station Masses. It is also an opportunity to make an offering towards the income of the Parish Clergy. We really appreciate the help and support of all our distributors who give out the envelopes in each area. The envelopes are ready to be collected from the Parish office between 8:30am and 11am - Mon. to Fri. only.

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.

You Don't have to be Perfect to be Amazing.

Mitchelstown Musical Society would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support of its recent Street and Churchgate Collections, which were held over last weekend. The Society really appreciates your continued generosity, as it heads into its 20th Anniversary!

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'