

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

Issue: 31

Date: 24th & 25th October 2026

Thirtieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Thought for the Day

Legalist or Lover

What's the difference between a legalist and a lover? The legalist keeps score, the lover doesn't. Love thinks of how it might give more, do more, demonstrate love more fully. There are many examples of people who are poor in pocket, but rich in love.

More than anything else, God wants to be in a love relationship with you (Gospel). He wants your love more than your obedience or service! But if you love God, you will do those other things.

So, are you a legalist or a lover, alive or dead in how you live your faith? Your life shapes your response to this great commandment.

Dates for your Diary –

First Holy Communion – May 2027

Glenahulla National School	11.00am - 15 th May 2026	Killacluig Church
Ballygiblin National School	11.00am - 15 th May 2026	Ballygiblin Church
C.B.S. Primary School	11.00am – 22 nd May 2026	Parish Church
Bunscoil na Toirbhirte Primary School	11.00am – 22 nd May 2026	Parish Church

Some Light Humour – A priest, a rabbi, and a minister were arguing about who was closest to God. The priest said, “I pray for my people every day.” The minister said, “I pray for all people.” The rabbi said, “That’s grand—but I’m the only one God calls back.”

Presentation of Benemerenti Medal

We are delighted to announce that the Papal Honour, the Benemerenti Medal, will be presented to Pat McEvoy in recognition of his twenty-nine and a half years of dedicated service to our Parish Church.

Pat has served faithfully and generously as Sacristan, quietly ensuring that our liturgies, ceremonies and times of prayer have been prepared with great care. His commitment, reliability and deep sense of service have been a great support to our Priests, Altar Servers and parish community over many years.

The Benemerenti Medal is awarded by the Pope to those who have given outstanding service to the Church. This is a very fitting and well-deserved recognition of Pat’s long and faithful service.

The presentation will take place at the 11.30am Mass this Sunday 25th October 2026 in the Parish Church. Please keep Pat in your prayers as he receives this special honour.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS - will be celebrated on **Sunday 1st November Mitchelstown Parish Church** – Masses at: Vigil 7:30pm, 8:30am, 11:30am.

FEAST OF ALL SOULS – Monday 2nd November – Feast of All Souls.
Mass at 10:00am & 7:30pm.

Rosary Holy Hour in the Parish Church today, Sunday 25th October 4-5pm. It will not be livestreamed.

Monday is the **Feast of All Souls**. A Plenary Indulgence will apply for the 1st & 2nd November and also from the 1st to the 8th November.

Plenary Indulgence

The Church offers a **Plenary Indulgence** during these days for those who have died and who are awaiting purification – we refer to these as ***Souls in Purgatory***.

A Plenary indulgence is a remission of the punishment due to sins and is gained by our prayers for the dead.

It may be gained in two ways:

1. Once by visiting a church between midday November 1st and midnight November 2nd and there say one Our Father and the Apostles Creed and also pray for the Pope's intentions.
2. Once each day by visiting a cemetery from midday November 1st to November 8th and praying for the dead.

Both these indulgences require that the Sacraments of **Holy Communion** and **Reconciliation** be received within twenty days.

REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

All Souls' Day invites us to pause, remember and reflect, not with fear or despair, but with hope and love. It is a quiet sacred time in the Christian calendar when we turn our hearts toward those who have gone before us. It reminds us that death is not an end, but a rite of passage and that love, especially in Christ, does not end at the grave. We remember the ordinary faithful, our parents, friends, neighbours, strangers who lived, struggled and hoped just like we do. Some may have died suddenly, others after long goodbyes. Some we knew intimately; others we never met. Yet we are all connected in the mystery of the Communion of Saints, the living, the dead, and those yet to come. On this day, we pray for the souls in Purgatory, trusting that our prayers, united with the mercy of God, help them on their journey towards full union with Him. Our prayers are acts of love, and reminders that they are not forgotten. All Souls' Day gently confronts us with our own mortality. But instead of leading us to fear, it calls us to live well with compassion, humility, forgiveness, and faith so that when our time comes, we too may be welcomed into the fullness of God's presence.

PRAYER ON VISITING THE GRAVE OF A LOVED ONE

Father in Heaven, as we stand before the resting place of our beloved, we remember the gift they were and continue to be to each of us here present. We thank You for their life, the love they shared with us, and we pray that they are with You now, enjoying the fullness of eternal life. Comfort us in our sadness, strengthen us with Your hope, until we are united with them again in the love of Christ and we are with You and our loved one forever. Amen.

Cemetery Prayers

Sunday 1st November - Prayers will be offered in **St. Fanahan's Cemetery** adjoining the Parish Church immediately after the 11.30am Mass and at **Brigown Cemetery** at 2.30pm.

Sunday 8th November - Prayers will be offered in the **Presentation Convent Cemetery** immediately after the 11.30am Mass and in **Marshalstown Cemetery** at 2.30pm.

All Saints

We can often get side-tracked by canonised saints and forget the saints that we, ourselves, have known. These were people who did the 'ordinary' extraordinarily well; who brought us untold joy by simply being, caring, loving, by lives poured out in the service of others. They were people who loved life, who made us laugh and laughed themselves till their sides hurt; who affirmed us and others; who built up rather than tore down; they also thought of the world as essentially a good place and rejoiced in it, while being fully aware of their own shortcomings. Thomas Merton once wrote: 'For me, to be a saint is to be myself.'

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 26th to 30th October 2026

- Monday (Bank Holiday): Mass: 11am
- Tuesday to Friday: Rosary: 9:30am Mass: 10am
- Friday: Divine Mercy: 3pm.

Confessions 31st October 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

Parish Masses on Sunday 1st November 2026 – Feast of All Saints

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>

The Parish Office will be closed

Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th October Inclusive.

Wednesday 4th to Monday 9th November Inclusive.

Arranging of Flowers in the Parish Church - We are always grateful to those who arrange the flowers in our Parish Church. If you would like to get involved and help create a welcoming and beautiful space for our celebrations, new volunteers would be most welcome. No previous experience is needed—just a willingness to help. You will be part of a team. Please speak to Breda Crotty at 087/4109561 if you are interested.

Save the Date! Raising Hope, Caring for Our Common Home Together - Join us for a Laudato Si' conference exploring how parishes can respond to the cry of the earth at this time. Practical initiatives, eco-spirituality and more, do save the date! Where? Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Cork, T23 E244

When? **Saturday 21 November, 10am – 4pm.** 'May our struggles and concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.' (LS 244) More information on the parish notice board, register by emailing maria.murphy@trocaire.org

THANK YOU! A very successful Coffee Morning was held recently at the home of Assumpta Roche, Ballybeg in aid of Marymount Hospice, €6,120 was raised. She would like to thank everyone for their generous support.

Saints Feast Days for the coming Week

Wednesday, 28th October - Simon & Jude: The teaching of the apostles is the living gospel for all to hear. Their authority comes from their fidelity to Christ and his message. St. Jude is the patron saint of useless causes.

Thursday, 29th October – St. Colman: He hailed from Kilmacduagh, Co. Galway. Son of a chieftain named Duagh. Hermit in Arranmore where he built two Churches. His reputation for holiness attracted too much attention, so he retreated to the woods of Burren in 592 to live in isolation. In 610, on land donated by King Guaire of Connacht, he founded a monastery which became the center of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh. He reluctantly served as the house's first abbot, the Diocese's first Bishop.

Saturday, 31st October - Blessed Dominic Collins: Was born around 1566 in the town of Youghal, Co Cork. In 1598, after a military career, he entered the Society of Jesus as a brother. He returned to Ireland in 1601, but on the 16th June 1602, he was captured by the English who tried in vain to make him abjure his faith. Condemned to death, he was hanged in his native town on 31st October 1602.

Sunday, 1st November - All Saints: 'The ultimate object of veneration of the Saints is the glory of God and the sanctification of humanity by conforming one's life fully to the divine will and by imitating the virtue of those who were pre-existent disciples of the Lord.'

Monday, 2nd November - All Souls: 'Indeed the church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian faith, has honoured with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins.' (2 Mac: 12-46), she offers her suffrages for them. These consist, primarily, in the celebration of the Eucharist, and prayers for the dead, alms, deeds, works of mercy, and the application of indulgences to the souls of the faithful departed'. (Directory of Popular Piety and the liturgy, 251).

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.:

Phone: 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'

The Parish Office will be closed

Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th October Inclusive.

Wednesday 4th to Monday 9th November Inclusive.