

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

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Date: 31st October & 1st November 2026

All Saints

Thought for the Day

All Saints and All Souls

The writer George Eliot once stated that 'Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them.' We may not need a particular day or month to bring our deceased loved ones to mind and yet praying for the dead during November is more than just remembering, it is an act of love and faith. The Church sets aside this month, beginning with All Saints' and All Souls' Days, to remember all the faithful departed, a practice rooted in the belief in the Communion of Saints, the spiritual union of all believers, on earth, in purgatory, and in Heaven.

Praying for the dead is also for Catholics a spiritual work of mercy as well as an act of love offered for them. It acknowledges our belief in Purgatory, a state of final purification for those who die in God's grace but are not yet perfectly cleansed. Our presence and our prayers, especially at Mass, assist souls on this journey towards the

ultimate Christian vision of seeing God face to face where there is complete happiness and lasting peace. Inevitably too our prayer for the dead is also a reminder of our own mortality.

As we pray for those gone before us, we are humbled and sometimes haunted by the realisation that our time on earth is short and to examine our priorities. The Beatles put it well many years ago 'Life is very short and there's no time for fussing

and fighting my friends'.

Last December Pope Leo encouraged Christians to reflect upon the reality of death because above all he reminded those listening, 'it teaches us to choose what we really want to make of our existence.' So this November, let us embrace this life affirming tradition, offering our prayers as a gift of love to all of our brothers and sisters awaiting the fullness of God's presence.

Fr. Paul Clayton-Lea

The Pope's Monthly Intention

For the proper use of wealth – Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

November Prayer

Lord God, whose days are without end and whose mercies beyond counting,

Keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.

Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice,

That we may serve you in union with the whole Church,

Sure in faith, strong in hope, perfect in love.

And when our earthly dwelling is ended, lead us rejoicing
into your kingdom where you live for ever and ever. Amen.

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Some Light Humour – Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!" Johnny: "Because I've already got a cat!"

FEAST OF ALL SOULS – Monday 2nd November – Feast of All Souls.

Mass at 10:00am & 7:30pm.

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.

Prayers for the Poor Souls in Purgatory

Lord Jesus, lovingly welcome into Your presence my deceased family, relatives and friends who have completed their journey on this earth, and have gone to their rest in the hope of rejoicing with you forever in heaven.

Source of all life and love, in Your infinite mercy, look favourably upon their goodness, and forgive any sins they may have committed, so they may enjoy for all eternity the great rewards You have promised to those who believe in You. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let the perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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.

Lord God,
whose days are without end and whose mercies beyond counting,
keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.
Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice,
that we may serve you in union with the whole Church,
sure in faith, strong in hope, perfect in love.
And when our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,
where you live forever and ever.
AMEN

(Order of Christian Funerals, 332)

Holy Hour in remembrance of our deceased loved ones, **Sunday 22nd November 4pm to 5pm, Mitchelstown Parish Church.**

Remembrance Mass for the Dead, Thursday 19th November – 7.30pm, Mitchelstown Parish Church.

Those who died during the past year will be remembered at the beginning of the Mass.
Night lights will be lit during the ceremony in remembrance of all our dead. (Night lights provided)

November Masses - Names for the **November Masses for the Dead** should be handed in at the Church or to the Parochial House. Twelve Masses will be offered for all on the November Dead list. **Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.**

Series of Talks for Neocatechumenal way - Mondays and Thursdays at the Town Hall at 8pm. Come and listen. God does not abandon us.

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

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

C.B.S. Primary Parents Association will be hosting an Adult Table Quiz in Jackie O'Brien's / Tavern, Friday, 20th November, to raise funds to support the school. €40 per table of 4. There will be Finger food and a Raffle. So please join us on **Friday 20th November, at Jackie O'Brien's / Tavern, at 9pm.** Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 2nd to 7th November 2026

- Monday to Friday: Rosary: 9:30am Mass: 10am
- Monday Feast of All Souls: Mass: 7:30pm
- Friday: Divine Mercy: 3pm.
- Saturday: Mass: 10am followed by First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Confessions 7th November 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

Parish Masses on Sunday 8th November 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>

The Parish Office will be closed

Wednesday 4th to Monday 9th November Inclusive.

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.

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

Wednesday 4th to Monday 9th November Inclusive.