Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

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Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of The Universe.

Thought for the Day

King Of The Universe - From a very young age, children tend to hear a lot about royalty. Popular fairytales, many of them around for hundreds of years, tell tales of beautiful princesses, brave princes, and noble, wise, old kings and queens. They transport children into a world of extravagant palaces and riches beyond anything they could imagine. Modern children's stories and cartoons continue the fascination, but many now turn the traditional stereotypes on their head. Princesses no longer wait around to be rescued, but take their fate into their own hands. Princes don't necessarily want to be brave or to become the next king.

In the time of Jesus kings were powerful rulers, and some were tyrants. We know from earlier in Matthew's Gospel that King Herod was capable of brutal acts. There were expectations too about the great Messianic King who would lead a rebellion and establish his kingdom on earth. The king that Jesus talks about turns these images upside down. He is a fair judge, a shepherd who looks after his flock, inviting all who act with justice and generosity to take their place in his kingdom. He is also in solidarity with the 'least' of his people. Who ever heard of a king who knows what it's like to be in need of food, clothing or company? But Jesus is a different sort of royalty. His kingdom is not based on power or riches, but charity, compassion and forgiveness.

Some Light Humour/Moral – Once, a king gave every young person in his kingdom a seed and told them to return in one year with what they had grown. One boy watered his seed faithfully, but nothing sprouted; on the day of judgment, he arrived with only an empty pot while others brought towering plants and bright flowers.

The king walked past the beautiful plants and stopped at the empty pot. "This is your new king," he announced. The seeds had been boiled, so none could grow—everyone else had secretly replaced theirs. The boy's honesty had made him worthy of the crown. **Moral:** Honesty may not always look impressive, but it earns lasting trust.

Pastoral Reflection: The True King and the Close of the Year

As the autumn leaves fall and the days grow short and quiet, the Church turns our gaze toward the horizon of time. This last Sunday of the liturgical year invites us to step back and ask a simple, piercing question: *Who sits on the throne of our hearts?*

We celebrate Christ as King today, not with the pomp of earthly empires, flashing crowns, or iron scepters, but from the quiet majesty of the Cross. His is a kingdom not of domination, but of radical mercy, truth, self-giving love, and justice. As one year closes and we prepare to enter the expectant stillness of Advent, we are reminded that our lives, our time, and our community belong to Him who is the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end.

Take a moment this week to look back over the past year: the joys shared, the losses carried, the quiet prayers answered or left waiting. Lay them all at the feet of Christ the King, trusting that your story—and our parish story—is held safely in His hands.

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent: Our liturgical journey begins anew. A new beginning. A New Year in the life of the Church.

Feast of St. Fanahan – Our Patron Saint – Wednesday 25th November
Wednesday, 25th November marks the Feast Day of St. Fanahan (Fionnchú), the beloved 7th-century monk, founder of Brigown, and patron saint of our parish. For over 1,400 years, generations of families in our community have turned to St. Fanahan in prayer, carrying forward a living tradition of faith, devotion, and pilgrimage.

The Novena & Holy Well Rounds: During the nine days of the Novena, the path to **St. Fanahan's Well** off Mulberry Lane will be illuminated in the evenings. Parishioners are encouraged to visit the well, walk the traditional rounds, and pray for our parish family, our sick, and those away from home.

Prayer to St. Fanahan: *Glorious St. Fanahan, faithful servant of Christ and protector of our parish, you brought the light of the Gospel to Brigown and stood firm in faith and penance. Intercede for our families, bless our community, and guide us always closer to Christ the King. Amen.*

Exploring the Introductory Rites 2 of Sunday Mass

GLORIA: On Sundays outside of Lent and Advent, on solemnities and feasts, the Gloria is sung or recited. In this joyful hymn of praise, the gathered assembly unites with the heavenly choirs. Within this hymn we recall the five actions of the Mass we are each called to: we are here to praise, bless, adore, glorify and thank our God.

OPENING PRAYER/COLLECT: The Introductory Rites conclude with an opening prayer, called the Collect. This prayer gathers (or collects) all our prayers into one prayer of the day. It has a four-fold pattern of
1) an invitation from the priest celebrant to the assembly to pray,
2) a brief silence to gather the prayers of our hearts into one,
3) the prayer itself proclaimed by the priest celebrant and
4) our assent to the prayer in our 'Amen'. The silence within this prayer can help create a sense of unity among the assembly. Like all our prayers in the liturgy, we make our prayer to God the Father, through Christ and in the Holy Spirit. This can be a timely reminder to us that the celebration of the Mass is the action of Christ and of the people of God, united in common worship. *catholicbishops.ie*

Feast of Christ The King Sunday, 22nd November – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 11:30am Mass until 5pm, Holy Hour in remembrance of our deceased loved ones from 4pm to 5pm.

Please note the Parish Office will be closed Friday, 27th November.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards now available for sale in the Parish Office – Shared Masses €6 and Full Masses €11. **Cash only**.

Work hard, work honestly, and use your abilities to help yourself and others. True success comes not only from what we achieve, but from the character we develop while working.

A Blessing – by St Columbanus • Feast 23 November

Lord, may everything we do this day begin with Your blessing and continue with Your help.
May everything, we say this day begin with Your love and continue with Your grace.
May everything we plan this day begin with Your inspiration and continue with Your peace.
So that throughout our lives all that we begin in You may by You be happily ended, and all that we seek through You may be lovingly attended.
Amen *Daily-prayers.org*

Feast of St. Colman of Cloyne – Tuesday 24th November. The Diocese of Cloyne has a Catholic population of over 150,000 people. It stretches over most of the county of Cork, with the exception of the city and West Cork. Its 46 parishes run from Mitchelstown in the north-east to Rockchapel in the north-west, from Macroom in the south-west to Youghal in the south-east. The boundaries of each Diocese were drawn at Kells and it then became necessary to establish the exact boundaries of each parish. The parishes of Ireland were assessed for a Papal Taxation in 1291 A.D. and as a result an almost complete list of the parishes of the Diocese of Cloyne is available, dating from that time. At present there are forty-six parishes, many of which are unions of smaller ancient parishes. They are grouped into five deaneries.

Feast of St. Fanahan – Wednesday 25th November. St. Fanahan is the Patron Saint of the Parish of Mitchelstown. Fanahan (Fionn Cu or White Hound) came to the local townland of Brigown in the seventh century and founded a monastery there. St. Fanahan died about 660 AD. A cult of prayer and pilgrimage developed at St. Fanahan's Well, just a short distance from the ruins of Brigown Church, which is all that is now left of the monastic settlement founded by St Fanahan. Until 1854 the Parish Church was known as St. Fanahan's. That year the dogma of the **Immaculate Conception** was proclaimed by the Church and the Parish Priest at the time, Dean Morgan O'Brien, renamed the Church in honour of the new Dogma.

A Lighted Candle

Often, we light candles as a sign of remembering and as we light the candle, we say a prayer for that person that they may be enjoying the marvellous light of heaven. The candle light reminds us that we too have the opportunity to share the light of hope, that we carry, with others. When you are in a dark place, the warmth of a smile or a kind word can mean a lot. It may feel that our own light is very small and insignificant in times of much darkness but each time it is shared, it is not halved but doubled. Together we really can make a difference.

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)

St. Fanahan's Well - The Novena to St. Fanahan, our local Saint began on Monday 16th November. The Novena is for 9 days before St Fanahan's day and 9 days after. The Well path will be lit every night and for a time each morning of the Novena.

- Rosary on Sunday 22nd November at 3pm at the Well.
- Rosary on St. Fanahan's Day 25th November at 3pm at the Well.
- Mass at 7.30pm on St. Fanahan's Night in the Parish Church.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Baile Mhistéala will play music in the Church for half an hour before the 7.30pm Mass on Saint Fanahan's Day, 22nd November and also play music during the liturgy. They are delighted to be part of the celebration of this local feast day in honour of Saint Fanahan.

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 23rd to 27th November 2026

- Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri: Rosary: 9:30am Mass: 10am
- **Please note there will be no 10am Mass on Tuesday, 24th as it is St. Colman's day.**
- **Wednesday, 25th November Feast of St. Fanahan – Mass at 7:30pm**
- Friday: Divine Mercy: 3pm.

Confessions 28th November 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

Parish Masses on Sunday 29th November 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

Please note the Parish Office will be closed Friday, 27th November.

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 be part of a team.

Series of Talks for Neocatechemal 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.

Mitchelstown Musical Society - Don't miss the opportunity to see Europe's and the UK's Number 1 ABBA Tribute Band - "The Bjorn Identity", at **The Firgrove Hotel, on Saturday, 28th November!** Tickets, €27.50, are now on sale from Spar and The Favourite.
Mitchelstown Musical Society sincerely thanks you all for your ongoing support.

Free Christmas Wreath and Christmas Table Top Workshop in conjunction with Ballyhoura Development and Cork ETB on **Tuesday the 1st of December in Forest Hall,** Mitchelstown. If anyone is interested, please contact Eugene O'Donnell on 083 3084398, email eodonnell@ballyhoura.org or call into Forest Hall to book your spot.

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