

PARISH PERSONNEL:

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Parish Office Open 9am -11.30am Monday to Friday only.

(Closed Holydays and Public Holidays)

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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'

C.B.S. Primary Parents Council's Cook & Style is a stylish evening of live cooking, colour analysis and entertainment at the **Firgrove Hotel, Friday, 27th March**. It promises to be a fantastic night out in support of the CBS Primary Mitchelstown School Development Fund. Tickets €30. Available to buy on www.gr8events.ie/cookandstyle or directly from the School or Spar.

FREE 1 Day Understanding Self-Harm Castletownroche - open to the public. Wednesday, 8th April '26 9:30am – 5pm. Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd, The Old Mill, Ballyadeen, Castletownroche, Co. Cork, P51F9PX. 12 spaces available. For any enquiries please email: sp.enquiries@hse.ie. To Book a place please use the link below-
<https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingcork/e/ev-ssuw8-20260408093000>

Helpers Needed for Mitchelstown Carmelite Lourdes Pilgrimage. The Mitchelstown Carmelite Lourdes Group is currently seeking volunteers to act as helpers on their upcoming pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23rd to 28th September. Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the role is encouraged to get in touch. For further information or to apply, please contact Gerard on 087 291 5295. Email: Mitchelstowncarmelitelourdes@gmail.com

Ballygiblin National School Parents Association are absolutely delighted to host our **Annual Quiz Night on Friday the 27th March at 8.30pm in Jackie O'Brien's!** €40 per Table of 4. There will be finger food on the night, along with a raffle and some fabulous prizes. All funds raised go directly towards School developments. This is a really enjoyable evening - whether you are new to the quiz scene or a seasoned attendee...this is the quiz for you! Looking forward to your support!

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

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Date: 21st & 22nd March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Thought for the Day - A Human Heart

When people read this they say they see that Jesus is a real human being, son of God, God of Heaven, man of the earth, weeping over a friend.

His was a human heart. He liked friends and he found a home and a safe place with them, over the hill and away from the mob. We might picture him there – the talk, the chat, the prayers, the love; meals with other friends who dropped in, times of prayer and silence. The one who can share a laugh, eat a scone, have a drink or a cuppa. The one who'd give a wink at the sign of peace! Not always so serious, even about religion. There's no such thing as a sad saint!

He is a good friend. Friendship gives new spirit.

When life is ending we will give thanks for friends, and regret the way we have drifted from or hurt each other. Real friendship is when another's thoughts and life become at least as important or more important than our own.

So the resurrection and the life is not just for after death. It is for now. We raise each other up in friendship and in love. In that is the grace of the Lord, himself a friend, for when we love, God lives in us.

Picture your friends and those you love and give thanks to God for each of them.

Lord, help me to keep love and friendship alive in my life.

(Donal Neary SJ)

Forty Days - What's all this about forty days? Lent is from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and that makes forty-six days. The answer is that we do not count Sundays in the forty days of lent. You can enjoy the Sunday as the Lord's Day to celebrate. Why not treat yourself to something as an encouragement to get on with Lent on Monday?

It was quite early in the history of the Church that the preparation for Easter took the form of forty days of special prayer and penance. The number forty was in imitation of Christ who spent forty days in the desert. The Christians in the Eastern tradition needed seven weeks to complete their forty days because they excluded Saturday as well as Sunday from their days of penance. The Western tradition excluded Sunday only so six weeks provided thirty six days, nearly enough. Still four days more were needed to make up the forty. The solution was to start Lent three days before the first Sunday. They did this in the Seventh century and so today we have Ash Wednesday, forty days (and six Sundays) before Easter.

Lenten Calendar

This Lent, you are invited to pray with a line of God's Word each week and to express that Word in action each day.

5th Sunday of Lent: *Create in me a new heart, O God*

- Mon: Let your heart be filled with God's view of life
Tues: Fast from selfishness, go the extra mile today for someone else
Wed: Welcome the stranger, in yourself as well as in your neighbour.
Thurs: Pray for those whose hearts are filled with anger and hatred
Fri: Remember those who live in darkness and despair
Sat: Give to the poor

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 23rd to 28th March 2026

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

Confessions 28th March 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

Parish Masses on Sunday 29th March 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 may not always be available for all services due to GDPR Regulations.

When writing Cheques to the Parish, please issue them to ‘Mitchelstown Parish’

Some Light Humour – Hiking is a great way for older persons to meet new people. Today I met two paramedics, three nurses, a cardiologist and nearly met Jesus!

Cloyne Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 29th May – 3rd June 2026 - All bookings for the Cloyne Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes should be made through Joe Walsh Tours by telephone 01-2410800, online, www.joewalstours.ie/pilgrimages/group-diocesan-pilgrimages/ or by post to 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02WY88. No booking is definite until a non-refundable deposit payment of €350 per person (plus insurance premium where applicable) has been receipted by Joe Walsh Tours. Early booking advisable.

Pilgrims who would like to travel with the Special Assisted Section should apply to: Cloyne Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, c/o Parish Secretary, 27/28 Bank Place, Mallow, Co. Cork. Tel: 022-20276. This special assisted/sick section is accommodated at the Accueil Notre Dame. Acceptance for travel with the special section for the sick is subject to approval of the Pilgrimage Medical Board. The closing date for receipt of application is 31st March 2026.

Camp Creideamh, Catholic Faith Camps for teenagers, boys and girls, will take place again in Knockadoon (East Cork) over the dates 7th – 13th June. For booking go to website: www.campcreideamh.ie. For more info ring Fr Eamon Roche on 086 9972539.

Carrigtwohill Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima - 7th - 14th September 2026. Full Board, Cork to Faro return with Bus to and from Fatima included. Limited number of places. €1045, single supplement extra - limited single rooms, insurance also extra. 20kg baggage included with Aer Lingus flight, 7 nights Hotel Styler, guided tours and full spiritual programme. Make enquires to Fr. Winkle 021 4882439 or Joe Walsh Tours. 01 241 0800 or 021 242 7190. Book direct <https://joewalstours.ie/private-tours/carrigtwohill-parish-fatima-pilgrimage>

'Claisceadal na gCarad' Choir will be singing at the **10.00am Mass on Sunday 22nd March in Killacraig Church.** ('Claisceadal na gCarad' means, 'the choir of friends'). Membership (currently 26) is drawn from the Mitchelstown/Fermoy area. They were formed ten years ago and sing almost exclusively in Irish. They sing in the traditional Irish style. They sing some of their repertoire with musical accompaniment. While they sing mostly in unison, which is most suited to traditional singing, they do use harmonies in a small number of their songs.

SPRING STATIONS 2026 - Town & Country Stations:

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.

Wednesday, 25th March, Parish Church at 7.30pm	Upper Cork St. Lower Cork St. New Square, Arch Avenue, Railway Rd., Carraigroe, Cross of the Groves, Brigown Rd Lower & Fermoy Rd.	
	Clonmel Road, Baldwin Street, King’s Square & College, Castlefarm Road, Castle Lodge, Bank Place, & Castle Park, Suttons Corner	
	Ballinwillin, Cahir Hill, Ballinwillin Estate, Linden Hill, Árd-Mhuilinn & Luí Na Gréine	
	Captain Keane’s Grove, Roche’s Heights & Sarsfield Casey Drive.	
	Church Rd. Brigown Church Rd. Mulberry Flats, Mulberry Crest, Woodlawn, Kali Magdan, Brigown Cottages, Abbey Farm, Mulberry, Abbey View, The Meadows, Sliabh Alainn & Stonewell	
	Robert St. Thomas St. George’s St. Kingston Close & Edward St.	
	King’s St. James St. & Tearmann Ui Chaoimh.	
	St. Fanahan’s Pl. Barrack Rd. Cloonlough North, Old Fermoy Road, Cross of the Groves & Ballybeg Rd.	
	Liam Lynch Pk., O’Neill Crowley Tce. Beechwood Grove, Moher Crescent, Mandeville Pk., & Ailsbury Court.	
	Church St. Mitchelscourt, Kildorrery Rd., Ashfield Manor, Stagpark, Deerpark, Clonkilla, Carriganleigh, Cloonlough & Árd Na Gréine.	
New Stag Park Estates		
Thursday, 26th March 2026, Parish Church at 7.30pm	Demesne	Michael & Eibhlín English
	Gurrane & Coolenave	Mary O’Connell
	Kilshanny	Seamus & Eileen Mannix
	Corracunna & Cooleregan	Kevin Flynn & Anne McGrath
	Pollardstown & Killicane	Rory & Monica O’Brien
	Ballinamona & Brigown	J.J. & Kathleen Lynch
	Ballybeg, Turbeigh & Glenatluckey	Assumpta Roche
	Kiltrilane & Cloonlough South	Margaret O’Grady

Questions People Ask

Q. Was St. Patrick the first Christian missionary in Ireland? Did he really cast out the snakes?

A. Historians say that there is ample evidence that there were other missionaries, particularly in the East and South, at the same time as Patrick, possibly even before him. In his autobiographical Confession, Patrick is aware of other bishops administering baptism, confirmation and ordination. The mission of Patrick was so outstanding that he is rightly celebrated as the apostle of Ireland.

As for the snakes, since a serpent was associated with the first sin, the legend is a fanciful way of expressing the power of Christianity over sin.

Fr. Silvester O’Flynn OFM Cap.