

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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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'

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

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.joewalshstours.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 received 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.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16 Issue: 12 Date: 28th & 29th March 2026

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Thought for the Day - What's the right thing to do?

The easy thing for Jesus to do on Palm Sunday is to let the people make him their king. It's clearly what they want, but not God's purpose. They dreamt of a political take-over, but his kingdom was not of this world. They refused the easy thing. Instead he did the right thing, allowing his enemies to crucify him.

People struggling over a decision, agonise and say, 'What's the right thing to do? In most situations, you will find that there is the easy thing to do, and the right thing to do. Usually the hardest and most painful option is the right thing. Many will urge the easy option. But you're alone in doing the right thing!

Today the use of crucifixes, even as personal jewellery blinds us to the awful form of Roman execution that it was. All the more strange, that, when Christians were finally delivered out of the underground tombs of Rome, the symbol they adopted was not the palm branch of coronation, but the cross. That must have made Jesus smile, for they understood.

In your present situation and predicament, you know what is the easy and what is the right thing to do. Do the right thing.

Palm Sunday

On this Sunday, exceptionally, we hear two Gospels. The chief one is the Passion according to Matthew but before that we have the Gospel of the Entry into Jerusalem. The Gospel of the Entry is an invitation to each one of us, too, to make our entry once again into the events of Holy Week.

The story we are about to re-enact, to re-tell ourselves, is familiar, strange and always new. It is familiar, familiar to us all our lives — each element, each character, each anecdote is known to us. At the same time, the story is also always new simply because we are different with the passing of another year.

The story is also strange... *it is* strange, when you think about, to have the story of a judicial execution at the centre of our faith. Paradoxically, in these days we celebrate the great events which gave us new life in Christ. It does give rise to thought.

What is the meaning of getting palms or other little branches this Sunday? The palms are a reminder of the welcome given to Jesus by a group of his followers who regarded his entry into Jerusalem as the official entry of the Messiah. This so alarmed the Jewish leaders that they hurried up their plans to get rid of Jesus. When we take palms, we recall that day and express our desire to welcome Jesus as our Messiah and Saviour.

Palm Sunday: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*

Mon: Be just in all you say and do.

Tues: Let the blessings of others be a source of joy for you.

Spy Wed: Pray for those whom we have betrayed and those who have betrayed us.

Holy Thurs: Sharing a meal makes us family – look around at your family.

Good Friday: Fast and pray.

Holy Sat: Wait with Mary and the disciples.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES & THE EASTER TRIDUUM 2026:

CONFESSIONS:

Monday 30th March - Confessions 7:30pm – 9pm – Parish Church
Tuesday 31st March – Confessions 10:30am – 11am – Parish Church
Wednesday 1st April – Confessions 10:30am – 11am – Parish Church

Wednesday 1st April – Chrism Mass – St. Colman’s Cathedral – 7:30pm

Perpetual Adoration closes on Wednesday, 1st April at 6pm and resumes again after the 11:30am Mass on Easter Sunday, 5th April.

Masses during the week in the Parish Church 30th March to 4th April:

Monday 30th to Wednesday 1st April – Mass: 10am

HOLY THURSDAY- 2ND APRIL:

MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER 7:30pm – Parish Church
ADORATION OF THE LORD at the Altar of Repose after Ceremony until 11pm.
All Eucharistic Ministers are asked to be present at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday to renew their Commitment.
Trócaire Boxes can be handed in at the Church Door on Holy Thursday & will be presented at the Offertory of the Mass.

GOOD FRIDAY – 3RD APRIL:

A DAY OF FAST & ABSTINENCE (We are to abstain from eating meat and to fast in honour of the Lord’s Suffering).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12noon–Killacluig 12noon - Ballygiblin
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S PASSION & HOLY COMMUNION:
3pm – Parish Church

The Annual Collection for the ***Christian Shrines in the Holy Land*** will be taken up. We ask for your support.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 7:30pm – Parish Church

HOLY SATURDAY – 4TH APRIL:

EASTER VIGIL MASS: 9pm – Parish Church (candles will be provided)

Please note that there will be no 7:30pm Mass on Holy Saturday Evening.

EASTER SUNDAY – 5TH APRIL:

8:30am - **Mass** - Parish Church
10am - **Mass** - Ballygiblin
10am - **Mass** - Killacluig
11:30am - **Mass** - Parish Church.

Easter Offerings for the Priests of the Parish will be taken up on Holy Saturday night and on Easter Sunday. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated.

Easter Monday, 6th April - Bank Holiday – Morning Mass at 11am only

Masses during the week in the Parish Church 7th to 10th April:

Tuesday 7th – Friday 10th April Mass at 10am.

Masses during the week in the Parish Church 13th to 17th April:

Monday 13th – Friday 17th April Mass at 10am.

There will be No Newsletter for the next two weekends, as the Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 2nd April to Friday 10th April inclusive.

Thought for Palm Sunday.

This is your friend, my friend, on the Cross.

We were on the road to Calvary with him,
and went out to help him carry his cross.

We spoke with him.

We remembered our sins and how we let him down,
and he just gently murmured, ‘Remember the story
I told you about the prodigal son’.

Always thinking of us, always a friend, always loving.
‘Tell all’, he said, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

And he carried our burdens.

We saw his bleeding face and hands
and thought of women who are battered,
and boys and girls who are abused,
and men who are tortured,
and it all seemed the same body.

And our own sufferings seemed to be in his body too.
Carrying the cross of us all.

And he carried our burdens.

Jesus had no crucified Lord to support him at his death.
Maybe Mary spoke a prayer for him, and he heard it,
for they say hearing is the last of our senses to go.
He didn’t have the help at death, which we have –
the example of our suffering Lord.

He glimpsed somewhere in the distance
the faces of friends and the caring look of his mother.

May we know in death and suffering
the cross of Jesus,
the risen glory of Jesus,
our cross, our risen glory.

And he carried our burdens.

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://joewalshstours.ie/private-tours/carrigtwohill-parish-fatima-pilgrimage>

**Time decides who you meet in your life,
Your heart decides who you want in your life,
And your actions decide who stays in your life.**