

### 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 Website:** [www.mitchelstownparish.ie](http://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’

**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](http://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>

**Ballyhoura Rural Services** - are currently seeking volunteers and an eligible person for a Community Employment Programme to join our Befriending Service in the Mitchelstown area. They provide companionship to individuals experiencing loneliness or isolation. Befrienders may also assist with small tasks such as collection shopping or medication. For further Information please contact Rachel on 0851661625.

**Considering a Postgraduate Programme in 2026?** - For those interested in Parish and Community work, St Patrick’s Pontifical University, Maynooth offers Diploma, Higher Diploma and Master’s programmes specialising in education and formation in the fields of Theological Studies, Pastoral Ministry, Healthcare Chaplaincy, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, and Liturgical Music. For more visit [www.sppu.ie](http://www.sppu.ie)

**Pre- Marriage Courses** – [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

## Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

**Volume: 16**

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**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

### Thought for the Day

#### Inviting Jesus in...

When someone dies, people gather around. They need to talk; to retrace the life of the person who has died. Nothing else seems important. Strangers don’t understand. How could they?

This was the experience of the two disciples, as they made their way to Emmaus. They were shattered. The stranger who joined them didn’t seem to understand. But at least he listened.

At the time of a funeral, religious ideas don’t always make sense. The presence of Jesus is not easily recognised. Perhaps we come closest to recognising him in those who come to sit with us, who listen, who bring sandwiches.

Jesus offers us his word, a word of consolation and hope, just as he offered it to his disciples on the road. He is with us too breaking the bread, as he was with them. We are never closer to those who have died than when we gather for the Eucharist.

Jesus made as if to go on. He was not going to impose himself. The disciples pressed him to stay for supper. They invited him in, if they had not, they might never have found out who he was. What is this saying to us today?

### Holy Oils

Oil is the symbol of strength and has been used from the most ancient times for the consecration of kings. There are three kinds of oil used in the celebration of the sacraments.

**Oil of Chrism:** used in the sacraments of confirmation, baptism and holy orders. These sacraments give the candidates a share in the priestly “character” of Christ (the title “Christ” meaning, “the anointed one”). It is also used in the consecration of churches.

**Oil of Catechumens:** used in the celebration of baptism and so called because it was originally used for anointing those who were about to be baptised.

**Oil of the Sick:** used in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Each year, the three Holy Oils are blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass celebrated on the Wednesday evening of Holy Week.

**The 5th National Conference on Stroke**, organised by the South Tipperary Stroke Communication Group, will take place at the Cashel Palace Hotel, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, on Monday April 27th, commencing at 10:00am, with entry for viewing of support stands at 9:30am. Speakers include Professor Ronán Collins, Clinical Lead Irish National Stroke Programme, Dr. Patrick Nicholson, Consultant Neurointerventional Radiologist at Beacon Hospital, and a number of other speakers including stroke survivors. Admission is free but is by registration on Eventbrite. Please search for 2026 National Conference on Stroke, Cashel Palace Hotel or at this link; <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/2026-national-conference-on-stroke-cashel-palace-hotel-cashel-tickets-1983736592549>

### Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 20th to 24th April 2026

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

### Confessions 25th April 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

### Parish Masses on Sunday 26th April 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** – Kevin: “My wife and I argue a lot. She’s very touchy – the least little things set her off.”

Christopher: “You’re lucky. Mine is a self-starter.”

### POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. Jesus joined them and listened to them. “We had hoped...” They poured out to Jesus their disappointments. When you have been upset or disappointed who has joined you along the road? To whom have you been able to pour out your heart? Who was a ‘Jesus person’ to you, listening to you in respectful silence? To whom have you been a Jesus person?

2. Jesus then helps them to see things in another light by opening the scriptures to them. Have you had the experience of new hopes being formed after disappointment? When has your heart been burning within you? What helped you to form new hopes in the light of the new reality? Who was with you in this?

3. The disciples invite Jesus to join them at table - there follows a recognition of who he is. We meet many people on the road of life. Usually, we meet and pass on. Occasionally we meet someone whom we invite into our homes, into our hearts, in a deeper way, and in a way that leads us to know people and to be known by them in a way we had not done before. With whom has this happened for you? Where in these relationships have you experienced the presence of God or of Jesus?

4. Jesus vanished but first he had given them life and they took up life in a new way. Can you name those moments of disclosure that enabled you to return to daily life renewed?

### PRAYER

O God of mystery, out of death you delivered Christ Jesus, and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples. Stir up our faith, that our hearts may burn within us at the sound of his word, and our eyes be opened to recognise him in the breaking of the bread. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy.

### Saint Mark’s Story – Feast Day – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Most of what we know about Saint Mark comes directly from the New Testament. He is usually identified with the Mark of Acts 12:12. When Saint Peter escaped from prison, he went to the home of Mark’s mother.

Paul and Barnabas took him along on the first missionary journey, but for some reason Mark returned alone to Jerusalem. It is evident, from Paul’s refusal to let Mark accompany him on the second journey despite Barnabas’s insistence, that Mark had displeased Paul.

Because Paul later asks Mark to visit him in prison, we may assume the trouble did not last long.

The oldest and the shortest of the four *Gospels*, the *Gospel of Mark* emphasizes Jesus’ rejection by humanity while being God’s triumphant envoy. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome—after the death of Peter and Paul sometime between A.D. 60 and 70—Mark’s *Gospel* is the gradual manifestation of a “scandal”: a crucified Messiah.

Evidently a friend of Saint Mark—calling him “my son”—Peter is only one of this *Gospel’s* sources, others being the Church in Jerusalem (Jewish roots), and the Church at Antioch (largely Gentile).

Like another *Gospel* writer Luke, Saint Mark was not one of the 12 apostles. We cannot be certain whether he knew Jesus personally. Some scholars feel that the evangelist is speaking of himself when describing the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane: “Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked” (Mark 14:51-52).

Others hold Mark to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. Venice, famous for the Piazza San Marco, claims Mark as its patron saint; the large basilica there is believed to contain his remains.

A winged lion is Mark’s symbol. The lion derives from Mark’s description of John the Baptist as a “voice of one crying out in the desert” (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion. The wings come from the application of Ezekiel’s vision of four-winged creatures to the evangelists.

### Reflection

Mark fulfilled in his life what every Christian is called to do: proclaim to all people the Good News that is the source of salvation. In particular, Mark’s way was by writing. Others may proclaim the Good News by music, drama, poetry, or by teaching children around a family table.

### Look on the Sunny Side

There are always two sides, the good and the bad,  
The dark and the Light, the Sad and the Glad –  
But in looking back over the Good and the Bad  
We’re aware of the number of Good Things we’ve had –  
And in counting our blessings we find when we’re through,  
we’ve no reason at all to complain or be blue –  
So thank God for Good things He has already done,  
And be grateful to Him for the battles you’ve won,  
And know that the same God who helped you before  
Is ready and willing to help you once more –  
Then with faith in your heart reach out for God’s Hand  
And accept what He sends, though you can’t understand  
For Our Father in Heaven always knows what is best,  
And if you trust in His wisdom your life will be blest,  
For always remember that whatever betides you,  
You are never alone for God is beside you.