

### PARISH PERSONNEL:

V. Rev. Canon Michael Leamy P.P., V.F. Phone: 025-41765.  
Rev. Fr. Tommy Lane C.C. Phone: 087-0660615  
Parish Secretary – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062.

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

**(Closed Holydays and Public Holidays)**

**Emergency Calls only Phone No.: 087 – 2524979**

Parish Office, Convent Hill, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, P67 E303

**Office e-mail:** [mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com)

**Parish Website:** [www.mitchelstownparish.ie](http://www.mitchelstownparish.ie)

**The Mitchelstown Community Council** warmly invites every resident, and community group in Mitchelstown and its parish to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday, 28th April 2026 at 7pm in Forrest Hall, New Square, Mitchelstown.** This open meeting is a chance for the whole community to learn about the community council's work, discuss local issues and discover ways to get involved in town initiatives. We especially encourage anyone interested in joining or supporting local organisations such as Tidy Towns, allotment group, and other community projects to come along.

By attending, you can:

- Hear updates on Mitchelstown's development and services
- Share ideas that shape future community projects
- Find out how to volunteer with groups like Tidy Towns
- Connect with neighbours and local leaders to strengthen town spirit

The council, founded in 1986, serves as the voluntary voice of the people, representing the interests of Mitchelstown and its parish. We look forward to welcoming you to the AGM and to inspiring greater involvement in the town's vibrant community life. For further details, please contact Mitchelstown Community Council, at [mitchelstowncc@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelstowncc@gmail.com).

### **C.B.S. Primary Golf Classic**

We are excited to announce the **C.B.S. Primary Golf Classic** and would be truly grateful if our local community, especially our past pupils, would rally behind our recent venture of works to enhance our pupil's facilities in the school.

**Event Details - Dates:** Thursday, 18th & Friday 19th June 2026.

**Venue:** Mitchelstown Golf Club.

You can support us by **Entering a Team:** Gather your friends or colleagues and enter a team of 3 players for **€150 (Includes meal)** or by **Sponsoring a Tee Box: €50.**

For more information, contact us via [office@cbspmitchelstown.com](mailto:office@cbspmitchelstown.com).

We would be delighted if you could help us spread the word and encourage your friends and family to get involved.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us build a brighter future for our boys in C.B.S. Primary.

## Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

**Volume: 16**

**Issue: 14**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

### **Thought for the Day**

#### **Vocations Sunday**

For years we prayed for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Nowadays we recognise the vocation of every Christian to be the light of Christ.

Jesus announced that his mission would be the kingdom or reign of God in the world. His taskforce would be the assembly of followers, later called the Church. In a vastly changed world, the Church of tomorrow will not be the same as the Church of the past.

Jesus once described the kingdom of God as a hidden treasure. The treasure too long hidden is the grace of baptism received by every Christian. It is a vocation, a call to bring the light of Christ to others. According to the late Pope Francis, Spirit filled evangelisers are what the Church needs today. 'How I long to find the words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelisation full of fervour, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction!'

Pope Francis and now Pope Leo have asked the Church to engage in Synodality, a method going back to the days of the apostles. A synod literally means walking together. It means discussing what needs to be changed, but above all, listening to the Holy Spirit.

For many people today the Church is irrelevant, so they have walked away in another direction. But there is an emptiness in the jigsaw of the heart that only God can fill. A renewed Church will be closer to the ideals of the Gospel. People will recognise Jesus as the keystone of life.

Let us trust in the Holy Spirit who transformed the confused apostles into zealous missionaries.

[capuchinfranciscans.ie](http://capuchinfranciscans.ie)

**The Origin of the Gospels - The Evangelists.** The Jewish memory was extremely retentive. We cannot easily forget repetitive TV adverts because the order of the words is always the same. The same was true of the early Jewish converts.

Once the apostles had grouped the miracles, teaching and parables of Jesus into a set order, their listeners would not easily forget. The words of the apostles would be firmly imprinted in their memory. This helps us to understand the part played by the gospel writers.

They did not write a book in the sense that we speak of a modern author writing a book. They put into writing that which was at first passed on by word of mouth. Their work - and this is their great gift to us - brings us into direct contact with the preaching of the apostles, the official witnesses of the life of Jesus.

**Rosary at the Grotto:** In honour of Our Lady, for the month of May, there will be Rosary at the Grotto, Cahir Hill, Mitchelstown, each night at 7pm, starting on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May. All are welcome to come. We pray the rosary in honour of Our Lady but also to ask for her intercession for our needs.

### Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 27<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

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

### Confessions 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

- Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

### Parish Masses on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 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 may not always be available for all services due to GDPR Regulations.*

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

### Vocations Sunday

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter or Good Shepherd Sunday is a special day for everyone in our parish and our Diocese. We celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We ask that we may be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit as we carry on the mission of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. We pray in thanksgiving to day for our Bishop, Priests, Religious and Deacons and for an increase in vocations in the Church. May our youth listen to God’s call and be encouraged to respond generously.

### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you for all you have done for us. We thank you especially for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to visit and save us. We ask you to bless our family and all the people of our parish, especially those who are suffering in any way.

Encourage those in our parish whom you invite to become priests, religious and permanent deacons, and grant them the generosity of mind and heart to follow your call. May they bring good news to our world today.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**National Epilepsy Week 2026** takes place on 18th May - 25th May. For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie/content/national-epilepsy-week-2026-epilepsyweek](http://www.epilepsy.ie/content/national-epilepsy-week-2026-epilepsyweek).

**Mitchelstown Tidy Towns** meet every Tuesday at 6pm in the Square and would be delighted if anyone wants to come along to give a hand to help improve the appearance of our town. It is very sociable; a chance to meet new like-minded people and no experience is required.

**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>

### Primary School Survey Shows Strong Support for Catholic Education and Need for Greater Parental Engagement.

Initial results from a national survey on primary education show that just 16% of eligible households expressed a preference for divestment, while the vast majority indicated support for the existing model of Catholic school provision.

The findings were outlined following publication by the Minister for Education, Hildegard Naughton, and relate to recent Primary School Surveys examining school patronage and related issues.

The Catholic Education Partnership said the consultation represents an important opportunity to ensure parental voices are reflected in education planning. Chief Executive Alan Hynes-Cendrzak welcomed the strong level of support for existing provision but cautioned that localised patterns of demand for change could emerge in clusters across the country.

He said Catholic education is grounded in the principle that parents are the primary educators of their children and argued that the Department of Education must remain alert to variations in local sentiment. While acknowledging that approximately 16% of respondents indicated a preference for change he said the majority support for Catholic schooling should not be overlooked.

The Catholic Primary Schools Management Association (CPSMA) said the strong support for faith based education is encouraging but stressed that the views of the minority seeking change must also be respected. General Secretary Seamus Mulconry said the publication of full survey results is now essential to give schools clarity and certainty about future planning.

He urged the Department to release the complete dataset without delay arguing that headline figures alone are insufficient for school communities to make informed decisions. He added that greater transparency would help ensure confidence in the consultation process and support effective planning at local level.

The survey forms part of a wider national debate on school patronage and diversity in Ireland’s primary education system with policymakers assessing levels of demand for divestment in different areas. While supporters of change point to the importance of increased plurality, Catholic education bodies maintain that parental confidence in the existing model remains strong overall even as they accept that targeted changes may be necessary where local demand is clearly demonstrated. Education officials are expected to review the survey findings in greater detail in the coming weeks as discussions continue between the Department of Education and school patrons on how best to respond to varying levels of demand for change across communities ensuring that any future adjustments balance parental preference with stability in school provision across the national education system.

**Some Light Humour** – A bachelor asked the computer to find him the perfect mate: “I want a companion who is small, cute, loves water sports, and enjoys group activities.” Back came the answer: “Marry a penguin.”

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, Larry La Prise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey" died peacefully in April 1996 aged 83. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in – and things just started to go downhill from there!