

### PARISH PERSONNEL:

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**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

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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’

**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)

**Counselling:** **Accord** offers a safe, professional and confidential process facilitating couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties in their marriage & relationship. For appointment, please ring Carolyn at our Fermoy Office - 025-31899.

#### **Parish Donations.**

For anyone who would like to make a contribution to the upkeep of our Parish, these are the Bank Details.

IBAN NO: IE93 BOFI 9029 4412 1426 12

BIC NO: BOFIE2D

Please put your name and address on the Reference, or if you have a parish envelope number, please put that in the reference section and we can add it to your account on our envelope system.

If sending in a cheque, please make it out to ‘Mitchelstown Parish’.

**Do you know your Eircode?** Do you know that in an emergency, a First Responder or an Ambulance can attend to you much quicker, if you know your Eircode. You can find your Eircode at [www.eircode.ie](http://www.eircode.ie). Ask someone to help you get it, if you have no access to technology. It can save a life. Put it on your fridge door.

## Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

Issue: 16

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

### **Thought for the Day**

#### **Deeds speak louder than Words**

In our human relationships we would hardly be content with a third-party knowledge of another person. ‘What’s he or she like?’ has somehow to be filled in through direct contact. It’s simply the way things are done in getting acquainted.

Too many of us know God through the experience of others. We treat him like the dentist or the doctor. We know where they are, but only when we are hurting. Today Jesus says ‘I will show myself to (you).’ It is an invitation to get personal with him.

Unlike human relationships there are no orphans with Jesus. His friendship is intimate, available and constant. We may feel alone, but our feelings mislead. Jesus is at pains to assure us of this. Other friends may depart. He will not.

Every relationship needs minding and care. Yes, there is a price tag: keeping his commandments. Deeds speak louder than words. An authentic Christian life will make an impact (second reading). It will cause people to stop, stare and question. We should have an answer ready.

People talk a lot of ‘full disclosure’ in world affairs. Anything that hints of a cover-up is rightly suspected. ‘Keep my commandments’ is more than private adherence, it’s about public witness.

**Congratulations** to the boys from C.B.S. Primary who received their First Holy Communion over the weekend.

#### **Belonging**

Belonging and inclusion appeared in nearly every conversation. The Church is perceived as struggling to welcome those on the margins, those who have experienced relationship breakdown, those in second unions, those who feel judged or hurt, and those estranged from faith communities. There is a deep desire for a listening Church that makes space for the wounded, those who are doubting, and those who feel on the margins. ‘Belonging brings caring, mercy, compassion and love.

It is at the heart of who we are and builds community that belongs to Christ and is mutually beneficial to us all.’ Participants stressed that ‘a sense of belonging is fundamental for individuals within the Church community, linking it to family, education, and participation in faith.’

Some highlighted isolation, loneliness, and anxiety, and the marginalisation of many individuals and groups. Others insisted that welcome and inclusion must be more than an ideal, ‘embracing everyone, especially those who may feel disconnected from the Church.’

Belonging was described as an emotional need and a Gospel imperative linked to mission and evangelisation: ‘it helps people to take responsibility, links to engagement and active membership, and is key to people being open to a journey of faith.’

From; [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) - *Baptised and Sent #11*

| Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 11th to 15th May 2026                          |  |
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| • Monday to Friday:  | Rosary: 9:30am Mass: 10am  |
| • Friday:  | Divine Mercy: 3pm.   |
| Confessions 16th May 2026  |  |
| •  | <b>Please note - No Confessions in Parish Church this weekend.</b> |
| Parish Masses on Sunday 17th May 2026  |  |
| Parish Church – Vigil 7:30pm; 8:30am and 11:30am.  |  |
| Killacluig; – 10:00am.   |  |
| <b><u>The Parish Office will be closed from</u></b>  |  |
| <b><u>Friday, 15th May to Wednesday, 20th May inclusive.</u></b>                             |  |
| Please note Mass times are displayed on Church Noticeboards.                                 |  |
| <i>Live Streaming may not always be available for all services due to GDPR Regulations.</i>  |  |
| <b><u>When writing Cheques to the Parish, please issue them to ‘Mitchelstown Parish’</u></b> |  |

**Why is May the Month of Mary?** The ways Mary is honoured in May is as varied as the people who honour her. It's here. May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans. It's also the Month of Mary.

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of Mary to honour Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month. The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated Ludi Florals, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

The ways Mary is honoured in May is as varied as the people who honour her. The rosary being recited. May Altars with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue. Why? Do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour.

**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**. All are welcome to come. We pray the rosary in honour of Our Lady but also to ask for her intercession for our needs.

**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.

**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.

**Knock Pilgrimage to Pray for Peace in the Holy Land** - People from all over Ireland are invited to Knock Shrine on Saturday May 16, for a special pilgrimage to pray for peace in the Holy Land. The pilgrimage – organised by the papal charity Aid to the Church in Need – will be led by Bishop William Shomali from Bethlehem. Bishop Shomali will offer a message of hope at 11am, and celebrate Mass at 3pm. All are welcome. More information at [www.acnireland.org](http://www.acnireland.org)

### **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 Brass Band - James Fitzgerald Memorial Brass Band (JFMBB).** Join your local Brass Band! Open to all – children, beginners, past members and all instrumentalists. Instruments and training provided. No experience needed. Fun way to learn music, make friends and be part of your community. Come along and make some noise with us! Contact Marie on 086-8409615 or email: [jfmbbmitchelstown.com](mailto:jfmbbmitchelstown.com).

**LOUGH DERG - 4 day Pilgrimage 2026.** Leaves Cork Friday 5th June at 9am. Returning Monday 8th June. Booking and Information phone, Paddy 021 4502572

**Some Light Humour** – St. Peter halted a man at the entrance to heaven. “You’ve told too many lies to be permitted in here,” he said. “Have a heart,” replied the man. “Remember, you were once a fisherman yourself.”

### **41st All Ireland Rosary Rally | Sat, 6th June | Knock Shrine.**

Join 10,000+ pilgrims from around Ireland and beyond to pray for a renewal of faith in Ireland, and for peace in the world. The day itself will include exceptional talks, Mass, anointing of the sick, a healing service, over 20 Catholic exhibitor stands, and much more. See [allirelandrosaryrally.com](http://allirelandrosaryrally.com) for more details, the schedule, and for a list of 50+ buses going from around Ireland.