

### PARISH PERSONNEL:

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

**Closed on Bank and Church Holidays.**

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

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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'

**Some Light Humour** – No matter how beautiful and handsome you are, just remember Baboons and Gorillas also attract tourists. *Stop Boasting!*

**Cloyne Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 29<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026** - All bookings for the Cloyne Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes should be made through Joe Walsh Tours by telephone 01-2410800, online, [www.joewalshtrips.ie/pilgrimages/group-diocesan-pilgrimages/](http://www.joewalshtrips.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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**Table Quiz – Mitchelstown Lions Club are holding their Annual Table Quiz on Friday 27th February in Jackie O'Brien's (The Tavern) at 9pm.** Table of 4 - €40. Raffle and lots of prizes on the night. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

**Please note –**

**The Parish Office will be closed next Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February for Training.**

## **Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter**

**Volume: 16      Issue: 6      Date: 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Thought for the Day**

#### **Going Deeper**

This Sunday we have a third extract from the Sermon on the Mount. It can appear at first glance to be a series of moral statements and rules from Jesus. On closer reflection, we can see Jesus' message here is the call for each of us to 'go deeper'. The Scribes and the Pharisees followed the letter of the law but without depth. Jesus is clear that he has not come to demolish the law, rather, this whole passage is a call to a more profound reflection on our lives; not ticking boxes but moving towards a deeper change of heart in dealings with others. Jesus gives many examples of how people might do this: warning against the hypocrisy of offering gifts and rituals at the altar when we may have huge anger and resentment towards another. Is the real sacrament not in reconciling that relationship first? Which offering is more life-giving? It is not enough to 'not murder', but we must watch our anger which can lead to violence. Jesus is calling on people to watch their thoughts which can lead to serious actions like murder and adultery.

When we encounter Christ, the grace that this experience brings can make us aware of what is not ok in our lives. We are called to a radical conversion, a change of heart. And so we read today's passage with our hearts, not our heads. It may help to recall a time when you felt God's grace bringing you to a deeper realisation about your life.

### **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...*

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love**

Mon:	Thank God for the gift of love in your life, wherever you find it
Tues:	Pray for those who have forgotten how to love
Wed:	Fast from jealousy – love the giftedness in others
Thurs:	Remember those who have been betrayed
Fri:	Let your prayer be for the ones who live in sadness and loss
Sat:	Be a loving presence to all you meet today.

### **Take Life Easy**

Life is "Exp. + Exp. + Exp."

Yesterday was *Experience*.

Today is *Experiment*.

Tomorrow is *Expectation*.

So, use your *Experience* in your  
*Experiment* to achieve your *Expectations*

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## Masses during the week in the Parish Church

16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026

- Monday to Friday: Rosary: 9:30am Mass: 10am
- Ash Wednesday: Masses: 10am & 7:30pm
- Friday: Divine Mercy: 3pm.

## Confessions 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026

Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

## Parish Masses on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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'**

**This Week – Lent begins on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Ash Wednesday Mass at 10am and 7.30pm – Parish Church.** Ashes will be blessed and administered at both Masses.

### The Meaning of Lent

The English word 'Lent' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Lencfen, meaning 'Spring'. In other languages the word comes from the Latin, *Quadragesima* – a period of 40 days. In the Christian tradition the forty days is understood to refer to a time of intense prayer and preparation; we remember the biblical stories of Noah and the flood of 40 days, the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness and Christ's forty day fast in the desert in preparation for his earthly ministry.

### Why we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

### What is Lent?

The period of forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter is known as Lent. This is the time of year in Ireland when the days begin to lengthen with the coming of spring.

The weeks of Lent were once the time when new Christians, who were to be baptized on Easter Eve, were taught about the Christian faith and life. Those who had already been baptized thought again about the promises they had once made and promise to be true to them. Lent was a time for spring-cleaning lives, as well as homes.

## POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. Jesus was led by the Spirit into what proved to be a wilderness experience. When you look back on times when you hit a low point, can you see the presence of the Spirit of God in some of them?
2. Jesus is on the verge of starting his public ministry. In the temptations we can see his struggle to say 'yes' to the mission given him by God. Perhaps some of your important decisions have been preceded by a time of anxiety and worry. What helped you to say 'yes' to risky but hope-filled invitations in your life?
3. Behind each of the devil's invitations was a basic temptation to lose trust in God. How have you been tempted in this way? What helped you to hold on to trust in God?
4. One can enter into the temptations singly and ask: • How have I been tempted to give priority to bodily needs and satisfactions? • How have I been tempted to a selfish use of power? • How have I been tempted to seek to be the centre of attention?

**PRAYER** - Lord our God, you alone do we worship only your word gives life. Sustain your Church on its Lenten journey. When we walk through the desert of temptation, strengthen us to renounce the power of evil. When our faith is tested by doubt, illumine our hearts with Easter's bright promise. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Pioneer Notices:

**1. Short Term Pioneer Pledge for Lent:** Many people choose to abstain from alcohol for Lent and offer this challenge and sacrifice as a prayer for someone suffering from problems with alcohol, drugs or other addictions. You can do likewise. Why not consider taking the short-term Pioneer pledge this Lent? If interested please give your names to Catherine Hanley, Secretary on 087 7727496.

**Short Term Pioneer prayer:** *"For Thy greater glory and consolation, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for Thy sake to give good example, to practise self-denial, to make reparation to Thee for the sins of intemperance, and for the conversion of excessive drinkers, I will abstain from all intoxicating drink"*

**2. Becoming a Pioneer:** Would you like to make a difference in someone's life? Would you consider becoming a Pioneer? Through this self-sacrifice and prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you can help someone. If you would like any information on becoming a Pioneer and what it entails, please contact Catherine Hanley, Secretary 087 7727496 or John Casey.

**This year's Trócaire Lenten** journey accompanies a three-generation family in rural Rwanda, led by Uwamahoro, a young mother supporting her daughter, niece and elderly mother. Through their story, parishioners are invited to reflect on the Gospel call to justice, resilience and care for our common home, and to connect faith with action in response to the climate crisis and its impact on vulnerable communities. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing generosity, prayerful support and encouragement shown by parishes year after year. Your participation makes a real difference to families like Uwamahoro's and to communities around the world working to build a more just and sustainable future. Trócaire boxes are available at the back of each Church.

If you would like more information on the work Trócaire do, please visit their website <https://www.trocaire.org/>