

### PARISH PERSONNEL:

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

**Closed on Bank and Church 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'

**Save The Date – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March in the Firgrove Hotel** for a fun night's entertainment, put it in your diary, the **C.B.S. Primary Parents Council's Cook & Style**, hosted by MC Willie Bun followed by Music & Entertainment. Live Cooking Demo with Sinéad Delahunty 'Delalicious for the love of real food'. Colour Analysis with Annie 'The Style Nanny'. Cheese & Wine Reception from 6:45pm. Tickets €30. All proceeds in aid of the School Development Fundraiser.

**Radio Maria** - Thank God and sincere thanks also to our many listeners and supporters as RADIO MARIA IRELAND continues to grow. As an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station we enjoy commercial free broadcasting - Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – do join our growing faith family! Here's how you can listen:

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6. Via DAB Radio in Leinster area.

Why not drop a line to our Spiritual Director, Fr Des Farren by text on 089-4672000, by phone on 01-4123456, or come and pay us a visit at Radio Maria Ireland, St. Anthony's Business Park, Ballymount Road, Dublin 22. D22 R7W2

## Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 16

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Date: 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

**First Sunday of Lent**

### Thought for the Day

#### Giving something up

For most older Catholics, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. In my childhood, the standard was to give up sweets, a discipline that found suitable reward in the huge amount of eggs I received at Easter. Some of my friends even added to the Easter surplus by saving sweets all through Lent, stockpiling what they would have eaten had they not promised to give them up.

A few years ago I urged students to move beyond giving up sweets to giving up some habit of sin that marked their lives. About halfway through Lent I asked the students how they were doing with their Lenten promise. One of the girls had promised to give up fighting with her brothers and sisters during Lent. When I asked her how it was going, the girl replied, "I'm doing pretty good, but I can't wait until Easter!"

That response indicates that this girl had only partly understood the purpose of Lenten "giving up." Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ.

### 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.

**Cloyne Diocese Eucharistic Adoration - Day of Prayer** – Today, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026. 10.00am Mass - Holy Cross Church, Charleville. 11.15am - 4.30pm Day of Prayer with Eucharistic Adoration, Testimony, Talk, Music and Eucharistic Blessing. Shalom Retreat Centre Charleville Led by Fr. John Keane. Director of Eucharistic Adoration Cloyne Diocese. Bring your own packed lunch. Tea and Coffee provided. All very welcome. Booking mobile number (083)4405359 or by email [booking@shalomcentre.ie](mailto:booking@shalomcentre.ie)

**Some Light Humour** – Why couldn't the priest find his rosary? Because it was Lent!

**Masses during the week in the Parish Church  
23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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

**Confessions 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Confessions in Parish Church: Saturday 12 Noon

**Parish Masses on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 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’**

**Blessed Luke Belludi’s Story – Feast Day – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

In 1220, Saint Anthony was preaching conversion to the inhabitants of Padua when a young nobleman, Blessed Luke Belludi, came up to him and humbly asked to receive the habit of the followers of Saint Francis. Anthony liked the talented, well-educated Luke and personally recommended him to Francis, who then received him into the Franciscan Order.

Luke, then only 20, was to be Anthony’s companion in his travels and in his preaching, tending to him in his last days and taking Anthony’s place upon his death. He was appointed guardian of the Friars Minor in the city of Padua. In 1239, the city fell into the hands of its enemies. Nobles were put to death, the mayor and council were banished, the great university of Padua gradually closed and the church dedicated to Saint Anthony was left unfinished. Luke himself was expelled from the city but secretly returned.

At night he and the new guardian would visit the tomb of Saint Anthony in the unfinished shrine to pray for his help. One night a voice came from the tomb assuring them that the city would soon be delivered from its evil tyrant.

After the fulfilment of the prophetic message, Blessed Luke was elected provincial minister and furthered the completion of the great basilica in honour of Anthony, his teacher. He founded many convents of the order and had, as Anthony, the gift of miracles. Upon his death he was laid to rest in the basilica that he had helped finish and has had a continual veneration up to the present time.

**Trócaire**, last year, worked with over 40,000 people in at-risk communities across Rwanda, helping vulnerable families build resilience against climate change by:

- Supporting over 2,500 women to receive training in sustainable resource management
- Providing over 20,000 families with fuel-efficient cookstoves to reduce firewood use
- Planting over 320,000 trees across the country

Trócaire boxes are available at the back of each Church.

**Table Quiz – Mitchelstown Lions Club are holding their Annual Table Quiz on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**Contemplative Dominican Monastic Vocation Discernment Weekends** in the Monastery of St. Catherine of Siena, The Twenties, Drogheda, Co. Louth. A92 KR84, from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2026 and the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026. For single women between the ages of 18- 35 years old. Please contact: Sr. Mairéad O.P. at : sienavoc@gmail.com Tel: 041 9838524.

**Epilepsy** - In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie). Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Marc

**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.joewalstours.ie/pilgrimages/group-diocesan-pilgrimages/](http://www.joewalstours.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 receipted 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.

**Spring Station Masses** will commence **on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026.** The Station Masses are offered for the families of the Station area to invoke God’s Blessings in all we do. We encourage you all to participate in the Station Masses. It is also an opportunity to make an offering towards the income of the Parish Clergy. We really appreciate the help and support of all our distributors who give out the envelopes in each area. The envelopes are ready to be collected from the Parish office between 8:30am and 11am. Thank you.