

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

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Parish Website: 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’

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: jfmmbmitchelstown.com.

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.

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.

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: 17

Date: 16th & 17th May 2026

The Ascension of the Lord

Thought for the Day:

The Ascension

A disciple is a learner – a student – a person committed to learning what the master has to teach. A modern parallel would be an apprentice – or a student musician asking a master musician to be his/her teacher.

The disciple is expected not only to learn what the master teaches, but also to put it into practice. Making disciples is about bringing others to embrace a new way of living, to become devoted followers of Jesus, and to imitate his way of life.

This is a slow process that cannot be rushed, a process that requires patience and personal involvement [accompaniment] on the part of the teacher.

The commission of the Risen Lord to his still fearful and confused disciples must have seemed overwhelming, impossible even. But Jesus assured them that they will not be alone.

To enable his disciples to carry out his commission, he assures them of his continuing presence with them. Jesus remains Emmanuel – God with us – as much after his ascension as before.

Yes, his physical presence among them ceases. This was limited to the period of his earthly life. Now, as Risen Lord, he is present to them through his Spirit, a presence without limitation.

Significantly, Jesus did not say, ‘I will be with you’ but rather ‘I am with you,’ promising an always-current presence. And so, the disciples of Jesus will not be overwhelmed, but rather emboldened and empowered to carry out the commission they have received.

And we, too, his disciples today, struggling to continue his mission in these uncertain and difficult will not be overwhelmed, for he who has sent us remains with us ‘until the end of time.’

Michael McCabe - SMA sma.ie

Congratulations to the girls from Bunscoil na Toirbhirte who received their First Holy Communion over the weekend.

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 for more details, the schedule, and for a list of 50+ buses going from around Ireland.

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.

Please Note - The Parish Office is closed until Thursday, 21st May.

Masses during the week in the Parish Church – 18th to 22nd May 2026

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

Confessions 23rd May 2026

- **Please note - No Confessions in Parish Church this weekend.**

Parish Masses on Sunday 24th May 2026

Parish Church – Vigil 7:30pm; 8:30am and 11:30am.

Ballygiblin; – 10:00am.

The Parish Office is closed until Thursday, 21st May.

Please note Mass times are displayed on Church Noticeboards.

Live Streaming may not always be available for all services due to GDPR Regulations.

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17 May 2026 • World Communications Day

At the heart of the synodal conversations lay the continued call for co-responsibility; a vision of Church in which all the baptised share in leadership, mission, and ministry. 'Shared responsibility is vital for the future of our Church. While it needs careful and gentle guidance, it is not optional and must progress steadily.'

This theme was consistently linked to lay ministry, baptism, clericalism, and leadership reform. As one submission noted, 'the number of clergy is declining and consequently the future of the Church will require increased lay involvement.'

Participants emphasised that the Church must not depend on priests alone; that 'both laity and clergy are needed,' and that 'for this to be meaningful, clergy must be willing to share responsibility, and the laity must be prepared to accept responsibility.'

Only in this way, they said, 'can there be true ownership of the Church by all its members, allowing the Kingdom of God to flourish more fully.'

Calls for shared responsibility were matched by recognition that laity must feel empowered and supported, with investment needed in faith formation and training for all – clergy and laity.

From; www.synod.ie - *Baptised and Sent #12*

Bishop Doran calls for greater support for women in crisis pregnancies - Bishop Kevin Doran of Achonry and Elphin, has sharply criticised the *Reproductive Rights (Amendment) Bill 2026*, introduced in the Dáil in late April, warning that it reflects a growing willingness among some public representatives to "ignore the truth, or to deny it entirely." Speaking at a Mass in Dublin's Newman University Church ahead of the March for Life, he questioned why legislators are seeking to further expand access to abortion, asking, "Does our society have a death wish?" Read more – theway.ie

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

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.

Saint Rita of Cascia's Story – Feast Day – Friday 22nd May

Like Elizabeth Ann Seton, Rita of Cascia was a wife, mother, widow, and member of a religious community. Her holiness was reflected in each phase of her life.

Born at Roccaporena in central Italy, Rita wanted to become a nun but was pressured at a young age into marrying a harsh and cruel man. During her 18-year marriage, she bore and raised two sons. After her husband was killed in a brawl and her sons had died, Rita tried to join the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. Unsuccessful at first because she was a widow, Rita eventually succeeded.

Over the years, her austerity, prayerfulness, and charity became legendary. When Rita of Cascia developed wounds on her forehead, people quickly associated them with the wounds from Christ's crown of thorns. She meditated frequently on Christ's passion. Her care for the sick nuns, was especially loving. She also counselled lay people who came to her monastery. Beatified in 1626, Rita of Cascia was not canonized until 1900. She has acquired the reputation, together with Saint Jude, as a saint of impossible cases. Many people visit her tomb each year.

Reflection

Although we can easily imagine an ideal world in which to live out our baptismal vocation, such a world does not exist. An "If only" approach to holiness never quite gets underway, never produces the fruit that God has a right to expect.

Rita became holy because she made choices that reflected her baptism and her growth as a disciple of Jesus. Her overarching, lifelong choice was to cooperate generously with God's grace, but many small choices were needed to make that happen. Few of those choices were made in ideal circumstances—not even when Rita became an Augustinian nun.

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. Significant transitions involved endings and beginnings. It may help to remember your own experience of this in ordinary life. Perhaps too, there have been significant moments of "before and after" in your discipleship?

2. In our culture, witnessing to the faith can invite dismissal, even ridicule. We can also meet welcome and encouragement. What has your experience been?

PRAYER - O God, giver of the Holy Spirit, we open our eyes to your vision, we open our hearts to your gift, we open our lives to your direction. We await your promise to be clothed in power from on high, so that we too may truly bring your good news in Christ to everyone in our time and to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Some Light Humour – A grandson was visiting one day when he asked his grandmother, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" She mentally polished her halo and asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

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.