

CLERGY:

V. Rev. Canon Fitzgerald P.P., V.F. Phone: 025-84090.
V. Rev. Canon O’Leary P.E., C.C. Phone: 025-84088.
Rev. Fr. Burke C.C. Phone: 025-84077.
Parish Office: Phone: 025-84062.

**Canon Fitzgeraldis on Sick Call this week;
Phone Number: 087 – 2524979**

Church of Our Lady Conceived Without Sin, Mitchelstown:

MASS TIMES: Saturday & Eve of Holy Day: 7.30pm
Sunday & Holy Day: 8.30am, 11.30am & 7.30pm.
Weekdays: 8.30am & 10.00am
First Fridays: 8.30am, 10.00am & 7.30.m.
Bank Holidays: 11am
MORNING PRAYER: Monday – Friday: 8.00am
CONFESSIONS: Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm
First Thursday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR: Thursday evening at **8.00pm – 9.00pm.**

DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS: Friday at **3.00pm.** All welcome.

Advent Evening Prayer: at 5.00pm this Sunday Evening, to prepare for Christmas, with prayers of intercession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. **On the 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec 18th) at 5.00pm,** the Parish Pastoral Council have organised a **special Parish Carol Service** in preparation for Christmas and you are all invited to attend.

Feast: Thursday next is the special Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **It is a Holyday of obligation. Masses in all three Churches as on Sunday.** Vigil Mass in the Parish Church on Wednesday Evening at 7.30pm.

Home Deliveries: The boxes of Parish envelopes for the coming year, Parish Calendar and programme for Christmas will be delivered to your homes in the coming days. We would be most grateful for the help of the Autumn distributors. If distributors can collect the envelopes from the Parish Office, during Office hours – Monday to Friday, 9am to 12noon, it would greatly help.

Parish Office will be **closed** next Thursday & Friday, 8th & 9th December

Collection for Flowers: The Annual Collection for flowers on the Altar will be taken up at all Masses **next Sunday.** We thank all those in the Parish who do such wonderful work in decorating the Church Altars throughout the year.

Today is the 1st Sunday of the Month, the **Diocesan Religious Purposes Collection** will be taken up after Holy Communion.

Prayer to Mary our Mother:

Mother of hope, Star of the sea, sure consolation of the pilgrim people,
Guide our steps in our journey through life, so that we may walk along paths of peace and harmony, of progress, justice and freedom.
Reconcile brothers and sisters; may hatred and rancour disappear; may divisions and barriers be overcome; may rifts be closed and wounds be healed; May Christ be our Peace; may His pardon renew our hearts

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 8 Issue: 23 Date: Sunday 4th December 2016

Repent – The Kingdom of God is Close: There is an urgency in the teaching of John the Baptist in this Sunday’s Gospel. We cannot and we must not put our repentance and the Confession of sin on the long finger. The number one sin is idolatry; worshiping ourselves and the things we have made. Let us ask ourselves, how much time do we spend on our phones? How much time do we spend listening to music, to the radio, watching television and operating our computer? How much time do we spend on our happy and physical exercise? Then we ask ourselves, how much time do we give to God in worship and prayer? Let us be honest: do we really love the Creator and Saviour with all our heart, soul and mind? Idolatry is the sin of our time and it is destroying us, our families and the world we live in. Isaiah the Old Testament prophet in Chapter One, asks us to reflect on this and promises us that though our sins we as red as scarlet, God is prepared to wipe them away, if we repent of them. As we enter the 2nd week of Advent 2016, let us lessen the time we give to the things our hands have made and increase the time we give to God the Creator. Let us fall in love with Him again, the maker of all things and thank Him for everything with grateful hearts. This is the call of John the Baptist today.

Pope Francis to visit us! Many of us remember the visit of Pope John Paul II, 37 years ago, September 1979. What an exciting prospect it is that our present Holy Father will walk among us again in two years’ time. We must prepare ourselves and our families, to make this a very special time. WE have nearly two years to prepare for August 2018 and the gathering from all over the world, to reflect on the importance of family. Let us all pray and stir up our Catholic faith once again.

New Christmas Street Lights: They are absolutely beautiful and congratulations to all who worked so hard to raise the money, to purchase them. It adds to the dignity of our Town.

Forrest Hall: What great news to see Forrest Hall refurbished and open for use for the Community once again. Congratulations to Mitchelstown Community Council.

