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

EUCHARISTIC 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.

<u>Feast: Thursday next</u> 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. <u>Home Deliveries:</u> 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 distributers. 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

<u>Collection for Flowers:</u> The Annual Collection for flowers on the Altar will be taken up at all Masses <u>next Sunday.</u> 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: 23Date: 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 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.

	the Community once again. Congratulations to Mitchelstown Community Council.
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Galtee Runners Red Run – 4km Run/Jog/ Walk. Proceeds to Forrest Hall. 4th December at 12.30pm. Start& Finish at Forrest Hall, New Square. Entry €5 – Family €20. Registration from 11.30am. Wear something Red. Treats at Finish.

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<u>Heritage Society Christmas Quiz:</u> Mitchelstown Heritage Society are hosting their Annual Christmas Table Quiz, next Friday 9^{th} December in the Hunters Rest, Mitchelstown @ 9.15pm sharp. The cost per team is ε 40, funds raised will go towards the cost of the 1916 Centenary Commemorations & Remembrance Garden, which has been created by the Society this year. With John Hickey as Quiz Master, the night is suitable for all interests and abilities. Always an enjoyable social night out, with Mince Pies and plenty of raffle prizes, it's a great way to kick off the Christmas season. The Society wishes to thank everyone in advance for their support, especially the local businesses & The Hunters Rest team, who always are incredibly supportive.

P.T.A.A. Private Members Draw Results Wednesday 16thNovember:

1st **Prize:** €1200 A. Campbell, Crosserlough, Co. Cavan.

2nd Prize: €400 J. Rogers, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

<u>**3rd Prize:**</u>€200 Breaffy Pioneer Centre, c/o G. Burke, Co. Mayo

4th Prize:€100 M. Ryan, Raheny, Dublin 5.

Six Promoters Prizes of €40 each;

• M. McCarthy, Dublin 13. • G. Clarke, Longford. • A. Campbell, Co. Cavan

• M. Brady, Co. Meath • S. Duffy, Galway • A. Henehan, Co. Roscommon

The next draw will be held on Wednesday 21st December 2016

The private members monthly draw which anyone may feel free to join has been held over the last number of years, proved most successful as a national fundraising event. Membership is $\[mathebox{\ensuremath{\mathfrak{e}}}\]$ 7 per month. Those wishing to join, can do so by contacting any member of Mitchelstown Pioneer Council or local promoter John (087) 6477897. We thank you for your financial assistance in the past and look forward to your support in the future. Best of luck to all in the draw. Wishing all our friends and supporters every blessing of Christ Child this Christmas and a peaceful New Year. **The Pioneer Magazine** is published monthly and is full of interesting and informative articles and features. If you would like to get a copy each month, please contact any council member. Price per copy $\[mathebox{\ensuremath{\mathfrak{e}}}\]$ 7.

Mitchelstown Flower & Garden Club Christmas Work Night and Party December 8th in the Town Hall at 8.00pm. Please bring your Kris Kindle.

TRÓCAIRE: Are you interested in supporting the work of Trócaire in the Diocese of Cloyne? Trócaire is looking for volunteers to bring social justice issues alive at parish level. Further information from Fr Tom McDermott (Trócaire Representative, Diocese of Cloyne) 086 1615216

fathertommcd@gmail.com orSinead.morgan@trocaire.org 021-4275622

This parish volunteer initiative is not being driven from a fundraising perspective but rather from a place of raising awareness with people in parishes of the work we do with their support, and the difference it makes. During the seasons of Lent and Advent in particular, parish volunteers will support Trócaire's existing fundraising campaigns as a natural part of their role as parish volunteers.

FR. MICHAEL CAMPBELL TRIBUTE NIGHT: A tribute night in honour of the late beloved Fr Michael Campbell C.C. Kilbrin will be held on Friday night the 16th of December 2016 at 8pm in Kilbrin Social Centre.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend to attest their stories and encounters with the ministry of Fr Michael. It was evident from his life and his funeral that he had touched the lives of so many people in such a positive way. The primary aim of this gathering is to assemble as many as possible of these testimonies, stories, and encounters with the ultimate aim of compiling the information into a book form. The testaments will be taken on the night by word, pen or voice recording. This we hope will be a permanent testament to the impact of Fr Michael's ministry.

There will be an unveiling of a specially commissioned painting of Fr Michael on the night which is hoped will be auctioned for the benefit of one of his many Charities.

A very sociable night is guaranteed with light refreshment and local entertainment. For further details contact:Mary; 087 97 33 804 or Margaret; 087 27 41 624

Youth 2000 invites all young adults, between ages of 16-35, to a Catholic Weekend Retreat, taking place from 16th-18th December 2016 at Newbridge College, Co. Kildare. This will be an exciting weekend, attracting over 600 young people from all over the country. What to expect? Good fun, excellent speakers, inspiring talks and workshops, prayer, fantastic live music, group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, a Healing Service, games, lots of time to chill out and meet new people. The weekend is being organised by young people for young people. Parental consent is essential for all those under 18. All meals are provided for and accommodation is on site! Don't let money be an obstacle; just bring a donation and a sleeping bag. Newcomers very welcome! There will be free buses picking up from various areas throughout the country. Booking is essential. For more information on the event or to book your place, see www.youth2000.ie, Youth 2000 Ireland Facebook page or Tel: 01-6753690.

Society of St. Vincent Paul: Our Society wish to sincerely thank all who subscribed so generously to our Annual Christmas Collection last weekend. It was very successful and will help us make Christmas a little brighter for so many families and individuals. Our thanks also, to our Clergy, our Sacristans and Collectors, who were so co-operative. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the year, and to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Carol Service 14th December at 7.30pm in Kingston College Chapel. All welcome.

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Mitchelstown/Ballygiblin Juvenile AGM takes place, this Sunday 4th December at 7p.m. in the Town Hall.

Get your **Christmas Reading** at the Vincent de Paul Shop, Thomas Street. Special selection of Christmas books, adults and children's all at 50c. Enquires to 025-84733.

NEWLY BAPTISED:

We welcome into our Catholic Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Rhys Tobin, Fionn Ryan, Ava Kent