V. Rev. Canon Fitzgerald P.P., V.F. V. Rev. Canon O'Leary P.E., C.C. Rev. Fr. Burke C.C. Parish Office - Patricia Dwane:

Phone: 025-84090. Phone: 025-84088. Phone: 025-84077. Phone: 025-84062. Open 9am-12pm Canon O'Learvis on Sick Call this week: Phone Number: 087 – 2524979 PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS: <u>mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com</u> <u>DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY</u> Office Open: 9 am to 12 noon - Monday to Friday. Parich Wahcita, www.mitchaletownnarich ia

CLERGY:

•Advent Evening Prayer: In preparation for Christmas, this Sunday Evening in the Parish Church at **5.00pm** with prayers of intercession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, (December 17th) 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.

•ALTAR SOCIETY: The Annual Collection for flowers to decorate the Altarsthroughout the year will be taken up at all Masses today after Holy Communion. Your support is a great help to the work of the Altar Society and gives special honour to the Lord. We thank all those in the Parish who do such wonderful work in decorating the Church Altars throughout the year, new members are needed.

Church of Our Lady Conceived Without Sin, Mitchelstown:

MASS TIMES: Saturday & Eve o	f Holy Day: 7.30pm
Sunday & Holy D	ay: 8.30am, 11.30am & 7.30pm.
Weekdays:	8.30am & 10.00am
FIRST FRIDAYS: 8	.30am, 10.00am & 7.30pm.
Bank Holidays: 1	1am
MORNING PRAYER:	Ionday – Friday: 8.00am
ROSARY:	Ionday – Saturday: 9.45am
<u>CONFESSIONS:</u> Saturday:	12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm
Eve of First Fridays& Eve of Holy D	ays: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm
We encourage families to practice monthly Confession	
EUCHARISTIC HEALING P	RAYERS: Thursday Evening 8.00-9.00pm
with Special reflections on the role of	of St. John the Baptist and Eucharistic Healing
Blessing.	
DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS: F	riday at 3.00pm . All welcome.
Church of the Holy Family, Ballygiblin	
MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy Da	y: 9.30am. First Friday: 7.30pm.
CONFESSIONS: First Frida	y: 7.00pm.
St. Joseph's Church, Killacluig	
MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy Da	y:10.30am. First Friday: 6.30pm.
CONFESSIONS: First Frida	y: 6.00pm.

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 distributers. If distributors can collect the envelopes from the Parish Office, during Office hours - Monday to Friday, 9am to 12noon, it would greatly help.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 9 Issue: 24Date: Sunday 10thDecember2017

THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: On December 9, 1531, in Mexico, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a poor humble Aztec Indian who had recently converted to the Catholic faith. She asked him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church where she said "I will show and offer all of my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to my people." Juan Diego did as she asked, but the Bishop asked for a sign that this message was really from Our Lady. Mary granted his request. On December 12, she showed Juan where the most beautiful Castilian roses were and told him to gather them. It was a miracle that the roses were there and in bloom because there was frost on the ground, and the ground was an infertile place where only cactus and thistles grew. After he gathered them, she helped arrange them in his tilma, or poncho, and told him to show them to the Bishop. When he brought them to the Bishop, the Bishop was amazed at the roses, but was even more amazed at what began to happen to Juan Diego's tilma. Right before their very eyes, the image of Our Lady began to form on the cloth. The picture of Mary was beautiful and the Bishop fell to his knees. He had the church built at her request. The tilma is still intact after 470 years. The colours have not faded and the cloth has not deteriorated. It has been on display in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all this time. The manner in which Our Lady appeared on the tilma was very significant to the Aztec Indians. God had her dressed in a way that they would understand who she was. She was dressed in royal clothes that showed that she was very important, perhaps a queen. She also had the symbol of the cross at her neck which was the same symbol the Spaniards had on their ships and in the churches they built. She had a sash tied around her waist which meant that she was with child, for this was the way the Aztec women dressed when they were pregnant. And on her beautiful dress were all sorts of designs and flowers. But there was one flower on her dress that was very significant. It had only four petals. To the Aztecs, the four petal flower was the symbol for the true God, the God above all gods. This flower was located on her abdomen, right over the place where Jesus was growing inside of her. The Aztecs immediately understood that this was the mother of the true God! This appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe was very important to the history of our continent. You see, the Aztec Indians and the Spaniards were on the brink of war. The Aztec Indians' culture and religion were very different from the Spaniards. They worshipped gods, to whom they would offer human sacrifices, often killing 50,000 people a year. The Spaniards, who were Catholic, were naturally disgusted by this. But they were cruel to the Aztecs too, treating them like animals and sometimes killing them for no reason. If a war had occurred, it would have been very brutal and the Spaniards and Christianity would have been totally wiped out. Mary's appearance changed everything, however. It helped the Indians to embrace Christianity and it helped the Spaniards to treat the Indians with respect and as human beings. In the course of seven years, 6,000,000 Indians converted to the Catholic faith. This was the biggest conversion in the history of the Church! This is why Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. Juan Diego, the humble man to whom she appeared, was canonized in the summer of 2002.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY – The tradition, called Bambinelli Sunday, was begun by Pope John Paul II to take place on the third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday. Following the Sunday Angelus address, the Holy Father blesses all the statues and figurines of Baby Jesus held up by the children in the crowd under the Holy Father's window, which the children then take back to their homes to be placed under their Christmas trees, waiting for Christmas Eve, when the Bambinelli can be placed in the Manger to mark the birth of the Baby Jesus.

We invite the children of the Parish to bring their Baby Jesus to Mass on the **3rd Sunday** of Advent, **17th December**. After Mass we suggest that the Baby Jesus is wrapped up and placed under the Christmas Tree and on Christmas Day the youngest member of the Family places the Baby in the Crib.

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TEAMHOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL: 3763 Gift packed boxes from Mitchelstown / Fermoy area, this figure has increased by 41, left 4th December for Ukraine. We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU**, to all who donated a box, the school children, the staff, parents and the public. We would also like to say thank you, to our drop off points, Ozanam Centre, Farrell's Supervalu and Price Savers. 3763 Happy faces on Christmas morning thanks to your kindness, so until next year, Beannacht Nollaig agus go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Date for your diary;-* Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council cordially invite you to their *CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE* - 'Carols by Candlelight' - in Mitchelstown Parish Church on ***Sunday December 17th at 5pm**. We look forward to seeing you.

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8 priests will be available to hear confession.

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CBS Primary 5th& 6th Class Carol Singers The boys will perform for all at Tearmann Ui Chaoimh nearer to the Big Day. The Carol Singers will be outside Supervalu on **Thursday 21st December** in conjunction with a Bucket Collection (Garda permit granted) in aid of **Mitchelstown St. Vincent de Paul Society**. C.B.S. Primary looks forward to your continuing support, carrying on a tradition which is now spanning over 3 decades.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

The sympathy of the Parish Community is extended to the family and friends of – Patrick (Pat) Brennan, Glenduff

Who died recently. May HeRest In Peace

THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE – *continued from front page*: Mary's appearance also put an end to the worship of stone gods and the ritual of human

sacrifice. We pray for Mary's help today to bring an end to the human sacrifice of God's children through abortion and to convert non-believers. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also called the Patroness of the Unborn.

On behalf of **The Irish Blood Transfusion Service**, please pass on our thanks to all who contributed to the running of this Clinic. *271* Donors attended our Blood Donor Clinic in **The Firgrove Hotel**. This generosity and commitment to helping others is very much appreciated. Donating Blood is a precious gift that brings life and hope to patients, their families and friends.

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Let's Celebrate Family.Six Sessions over six nights – Tuesday 6^{th} February to Tuesday 13^{th} March in Forrest Hall. These sessions are open to all families in the parish, and those involved in the supporting of families. Pope Francis has asked us in our parishes to promote his letter "The Joy Of Love". So gather together in the Forrest Hall on Tuesday, 6^{th} February 2018. We will pause and reflect on what it means to be family and to celebrate it in the light of the World Meeting of Families in August 2018. Forrest Hall 7.30pm – 9pm starting on Tuesday 6^{th} February. Contact Patricia at the Parish Office.

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Talk on drug addiction for teenagers and young adults struggling with drug addiction their families and anyone who want to listen. Talk given by Davide Barbieri ex gangster and recovering heroin addict(clean of drugs for 21 years) along with 2 recovering addicts from Cenacolo Community Knock Co Mayo .Cenacolo Community was founded in 1983 by an Italian nun Mother Elvira Petrozzi.Cenacolo Community Ireland was set up in 1999 by Davide Barbieri.Forrest Hall Mitchelstown Sunday 17th December. 3-5pm Testimonies and Question and answer session. 5-6pm Opportunity to chat with recovering addicts. Refreshments served. Free of charge www.communitycenacolo.iecenacolocommunityireland@yahoo.ie

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CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES:

CHURCH OF OUR LADY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, MITCHELSTOWN: Thursday, 21st December – 12 noon to 1pm & 7pm to 8pm Saturday, 23rd December – 12 noon to 1pm & 7pm to 7.30pm Sunday, 24thDecember (Christmas Eve) – After 11.30am Mass to 1pm. CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, BALLYGIBLIN: Confession after 9.30am Mass on Sunday, 17th December ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, KILLACLUIG: Confession after 10.30am Mass on Sunday, 17th December **

Towards Peace(*December 2017*): Christmas and New Year is often a time when we are reminded of our deeper selves and deepest hopes, and deepest pain. The vision of *Towards Peace* is to provide a safe supportive space for people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context, and who are seeking to explore the spiritual impact of the abuse. If you have been abused and would like a space to reflect on the impact of the trauma of abuse on your own relationship with God and spirituality, *Towards Peace* is here for you: www.towardspeace.ie / 01 505 3028.