

CLERGY:

V. Rev. Canon Fitzgerald P.P., V.F. Phone: 025-84090.
V. Rev. Canon O'Leary P.E., C.C. Phone: 025-84088.
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DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY

Office Open: 9 am to 12 noon – Monday to Friday.

Parish Website: www.mitchelstownparish.ie

Canon O'Leary is on Sick Call this week - Phone Number: 087 - 2524979

RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

PARISH CHURCH - MITCHELSTOWN

ON MONDAY, 22ND DECEMBER AT 7.30PM.

8 priests will be available to hear confession.

Confession:

It is important that we receive the Sacrament of Confession regularly, it keeps us in the Grace of God, as we face life's difficulties and it prepares us for the day when the Lord will call us.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS:

CHURCH OF OUR LADY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, MITCHELSTOWN:

Saturday, 20th December – 12noon to 1pm & 7 – 7.30pm

Tuesday, 23rd December – 12 noon to 1pm

Wednesday, 24th December (Christmas Eve)

– 12noon to 1pm & 3pm to 4pm.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, BALLYGIBLIN:

Thursday, 18th December – Confession 7 p.m. & Mass 7.30p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, KILLACLUIG:

Friday, 19th December – Confession 7.00 p.m. & Mass 7.30p.m.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR THE PRIESTS:

Your Offering envelope will be delivered to all homes during the week. The Priests wish to thank all the parishioners for their generosity to their collections.

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The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from Friday, 19th December to Wednesday, 7th January 2015.

Anyone wishing to advertise in the Parish Newsletter for week – 28th December, please have your articles into the Parish Office no later than 10am NEXT Wednesday, 17th December. There will be no Newsletter on Sunday, 4th January.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Newsletter during 2014 and look forward to dealing with you in 2015.

Wishing you all a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2015.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 6 Issue: 27 Date: Sunday 14th December 2014

The Importance of Confession: Many preparations are being made for the Christmas Feast and the gathering of families, but we must remember to also prepare our heart. Christmas is not just about the sentimental, but about having a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ. For this reason, the Church is calling us to the healing of repentance and the forgiveness of God.

God came to us in humility on that first Christmas night. He wanted to awaken in us a sense of wonder and a sense of caring for one another, especially the needy and the poor. By choosing to come in this way, God wants to awaken our hearts to His love and kindness.

Christmas calls us to reverse the sin of Adam and Eve, when they turned away from God and chose the way of evil and selfishness. Let us turn anew to God this Advent and begin by making a good Confession. Don't be afraid of coming. Let not the length of time or the shame of our sins put us off. The priest is in Confession to help us and guide us, so that we can receive and experience the joy of God's forgiveness. Next Sunday, newly ordained priest for the Diocese of Cork, **Fr. Marius O'Reilly, will speak at all Masses on the importance and value of Confession.** He will also offer his 1st blessing after some of the Masses. **On Monday evening week, December 22nd, Fr. Marius will lead a special penitential rite with eight other priests available for Confession at 7.30pm.** Let repentance and reconciliation be a really important part of Christmas 2014.

Home Deliveries: This coming week a 2015 Parish Calendar, a list of the Christmas ceremonies, the Christmas offering envelope and the boxes of envelopes for the coming year, will be delivered to the homes of the Parish. To reduce the size of the envelope boxes, they have been made into two half yearly sections for this coming year.

We hope to have all the deliveries done by the end of the coming week and we ask the help of all our distributors in the Town Station areas and those who took the Autumn Stations in the Country areas. All the deliveries are now ready in the Parish Office. If there are any corrections in the housing lists, please let Patricia know in the Parish Office. The Office will be closing on the 19th December for the Christmas holidays and will reopen on Wednesday, 7th January. We appreciate this help in the distributions.

ST. FANAHAN'S COLLEGE MITCHELSTOWN

Parent Council – Tesco Bag Pack

The Parent Council are holding a **FUNDRAISING BAG PACK** in Tesco Mitchelstown on **THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2014**. As this event is to help fund raise for much needed money to run the school, all support would be greatly appreciated.

BRIGHT SPARKS - BEST IN CLASS Educational Computer Training Classes. Fun Computer Lessons incorporating MATHS /ENGLISH /LANGUAGE /PHONICS suitable for 4, 5 & 6 years old. Starting January 2015. Bookings now taken for classes. Class sizes limited. We aim to improve your child's level of technology and advance to higher levels in school. Price €8 per class, 45 minutes class Afternoons / weekends. Call 025 86799 for booking form.

While you **take a few hours off** to get sorted for Christmas we at Bright Sparks will take care of your children in a fun and friendly environment. All ages catered for, food included, €7 per hour. To book your child in please call us at 025 86799

The **Committee of Stag Park Community House** would be delighted if you would join them for a Festive Christmas Afternoon Tea/Coffee in the Community House, Stag Park, on the *Wednesday 17th December* from 2-4p.m. This afternoon is courtesy of the Residents Committee. We are looking forward to the pleasure of your company.

Thanks from Mitchelstown Heritage Society

Mitchelstown Heritage Society wishes to thank all those who supported the recently held Christmas Table Quiz in The Hunters Rest. Quiz-master John Hickey, ensured it was a challenging but enjoyable night, with the festive mince pies proving as big a treat as ever! The support from the teams and especially the generous businesses of the town, who sponsored the prizes for the teams and for the bountiful raffle, ensured the night was an enjoyable success. The generosity and variety shows the huge variety available locally at Christmas, so shop local to protect local jobs. Mitchelstown Heritage Society wishes all members and friends of the society, a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year! 2015 will be packed with more lectures, outings and events, so watch this space.

Mitchelstown Youth Café are hosting on Saturday 27th December in Mitchelstown Enterprise Centre. **The Kube** is based on the TV show of the same name, which will see contestants face a range of different challenges that will test their concentration and nerve. For further details please feel free to contact us on 087 9129684 or by email at kubemitchelstown@gmail.com

NET Ministries Ireland would like to wish the Parish a blessed Advent season & a very Merry Christmas. The team are away for the break to visit family & friends, but will be back in mid-January. We will be praying for you & yours! God bless! -
- Abbey, Lizzie, Sasha, C.J., & Kevin

Parishioners are encouraged to participate in our Pilgrim Virgin's Home Visit Programme. Families are asked to set up a little home shrine where our Blessed Mother's statue will be placed. The Recitation of the Rosary by a family gathering is granted a plenary indulgence when all requirements are met. Recitation of five decades of the Rosary in the group with meditation on each decade. The usual conditions for a plenary indulgence are also needed, Confession, Holy Communion and prayers for the Popes Intentions. You can make arrangements for the Legion of Mary Pilgrim Statue visit, which is usually a week visit by contacting the parish office or a member of the Legion. Legion Members will bring the statue to your home and pray the welcoming Rosary with you, your family, and friends. Closing prayers are said when the statue moves from your home to a new location.

The Sue Ryder Foundation: We will be holding our annual Christmas raffle on Friday 19th of December. So hurry in store to buy some tickets. The first prize is a lovely dolls house plus many more great prizes kindly donated by some of the businesses in town. As always we are delighted to accept any donations you may have. At this time we are particularly appealing for men's shoes and toys. We have a large range of furniture in stock at the moment. Please call in and have a look. Thank you for your continued support.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to express sincere thanks to all who contributed to our Annual Christmas Collection. The amount raised was €3,250.

Christmas reading at the Ozanam Centre: Get your Christmas holiday reading at the Vincent de Paul Shop, Thomas Street, Mitchelstown. Fiction €2.00 non-fiction €1.00 Children €0.50 Enquiries 025 84733

FESTIVE FAMILY TREES: Offer a Family Tree search voucher as a festive gift to enhance the season of good will. 087.3589734 www.paxad.ie/clansearch

SENIORS FESTIVE KEEP FIT: Festive tone up class for seniors 50's plus at Tesco, Mitchelstown on Wednesdays 7-8pm. Prevent ailments, improve mobility, toning, balance etc. Book 087.3589734

C.B.S. Primary Carol Singers will be outside **Supervalu, New Square,** Mitchelstown on **Next Thursday, 18th December.** School Staff and Friends will be around town with a bucket collection in aid of the Local Branch of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, (Gardaí permit granted). This Carol Singing is a tradition which has long been carried out by the school. Thanks in advance to all the businesses and people of Mitchelstown, who have always been so supportive. Everybody at CBS Primary wishes the Community a Very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2015.

ALL WELCOME to join with **C.B.S. Primary** staff and pupils for their **Advent Ceremony**, which will be celebrated in the **Parish Church on Tuesday, 16th December at 11.15am.**

Carol Service will take place in Kingston College Chapel on **Wednesday, 17th December at 7.30pm.** All welcome.