CLERGY:

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

Parish Office – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062.*Open 9am-12pm*

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

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS: mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com <u>DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY</u>

- •At the end of Mass today, there will be a blessing of the Statues of the Infant Jesus.
- Confession in Ballygiblin after Mass this morning.
- Confession in Killacluig after Mass this morning.

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 & 7.30pm.

Bank Holidays: 11am

MORNING PRAYER: Monday – Friday: 8.00am

ROSARY: Monday – Saturday: 9.45am

CONFESSIONS: Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

Eve of First Fridays& Eve of Holy Days: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm

We encourage families to practice monthly Confession

<u>EUCHARISTIC HEALING PRAYERS:</u>Thursday Evening 8.00-9.00pm with prayers for families, special prayers for healing and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

<u>DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS:</u> Friday at **3.00pm**. All welcome.

Church of the Holy Family, Ballygiblin

MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy Day: 9.30am. First Friday: 7.30pm.

CONFESSIONS: First Friday: **7.00pm.**

St. Joseph's Church, Killacluig

MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy Day:10.30am. First Friday: 6.30pm.

CONFESSIONS: First Friday:6.00pm.

There are many Volunteers within the Parish of Mitchelstown, Ballygiblin & Killacluig, who contribute to the running of the Parish throughout the year. We also wish to acknowledge a number of Volunteers from outside the Parish and we are very grateful to them. In appreciation of their services, the Priests

of the Parish will celebrate a

Mass Of Thanksgiving
in the Parish Church

on Saturday, 13th January at 7.30pm.

The Priests and People of the Parish wish to invite All Volunteers to join with them in the Celebration of this Mass, followed by refreshments in the Forrest Hall, New Square, Mitchelstown.

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 9 *Issue*: 25*Date*: Sunday 17thDecember2017

Not One Critical Voice:

While we are preparing to celebrate the Birthday of the Baby Jesus, our Saviour from darkness, some of our politicians are preparing to persuade the Irish people to remove the States acknowledgement of the right to life of the unborn. They want to change our hospitals from being lifesaving to becoming destroyers of life. And there's not one critical voice in our States media. Almost 35 years ago, the Irish pro-life movement seeing what happened in the courts in England and America, lobbied our politicians to hold a referendum to include a protection amendment in our Constitution for the unborn. On September 7th 1983, 67% of Irish voters, voted in favour of that Amendment. The Irish people did not want what happened through the Courts in England and America to happen here. Since that time it is estimated that 50 million abortions have taken place in America and 10 million in England. And despite this holocaust of the unborn and despite all the evidence of science and technology of the reality of the life of the unborn in the womb, our Oireachtas Committee in the Dáil this week want the Irish people to vote for the same here. It is shameful. But they can't do it without the consent of the Irish people. The inclusion of the pro-life Amendment in our Constitution was sought in the early eighties because the pro-life people knew the politicians and the courts couldn't be trusted. In the pro-life 8th Amendment of our Constitution, the Irish people took it out of their hands. They now want to persuade us to give it back to them. The Irish people are going to be put to the test like never before. Because there is not objective, critical or truthful media, we will have to do some very serious, single minded thinking ourselves. The following quotation from St. John Paul II might help us:

"And so I say to all, have an absolute and holy respect for the sacredness of human life from the first moment of its conception. Abortion, as the Vatican Council stated, is one of the "abominable crimes" (Gaudium et Spes, 51). To attack unborn life at any moment from its conception is to undermine the whole moral order which is the true guardian of the well-being of man. The defence of the absolute inviolability of unborn life is part of the defence of human rights and human dignity. May Ireland never weaken in her witness, before Europe and before the whole world, to the dignity and sacredness of all human life, from conception until death". (St. John Paul's parting words to the Irish in Limerick October 1st, 1979).

We must think and reflect like never before, because we live in a time of fake news and many lies. May the Infant of Bethlehem and His Holy Mother & Blessed St. Joseph bring light to the Irish people this Christmas and dispel the darkness of deception.

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.

Mitchelstown Parish Pastoral Council cordiallyinvite you to their *CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE* - 'Carols by Candlelight' -in Mitchelstown Parish Church on *Today, Sunday December 17th at 5pm, with participation from Mitchelstown Comhaltas, Parish Organists, Laura Fogarty, Mitchelstown Brass Band and CBS Primary. The Carol Service will be broadcast live on Parish Radio and on the internet. If you have family or friends living abroad please do encourage them to watch'.We look forward to seeing you.

CBS Primary 5th& 6th Class Carol SingersThe 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.

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.Forrest Hall Mitchelstown THIS 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

Bunscoil na Toirbhirte will hold their Annual Carol Service in the Parish Church on

Friday, 22nd December from 11.00am-12.00pm. All are welcome.

Mitchelstown Citizens Information Centre will be closed for the Christmas holidays, from Thursday, 21st December and will reopen on Thursday, 4th January 2018.

Fundraising Event: C.B.S. Secondary School Parent Council – New & Used Clothes Collection. Thursday, 18th January. More details closer to the date. Any queries, please contact Noelle Luddy on 087-8158902. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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MITCHELSTOWN CHURCH FLOWER GROUP would be delighted to welcome new members to assist in decorating the Altar with flowers. No experience in flower arranging is required. Please contact the following numbers: 087 6364845 or 086 6077595.

RECENTLY DECEASED: The sympathy of the Parish Community is extended to the family and friends of Margaret Lynch (née McKenna), Moher Cresent
Who died recently.

May She Rest In Peace

NEWLY BAPTISED:

We welcome into our Catholic Community, through the Sacrament of Baptism: Éabha O'Brien Monthly Family Mass: The nextFamily Mass will be on Sunday, 24th December in the Parish Church, Mitchelstown..We encourage children and parents to take part in the Mass including those receiving Sacraments next year. Please contact Catherine 087 7727496 if you would like to be involved.

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The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from Friday, 22nd December to Monday, 8th January 2018. Anyone wishing to advertise in the Parish Newsletter for weeks – 31st December&7thJanuary, please haveyour articles into the Parish Office no later than 10am Monday, 18th December. We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Newsletter during 2017 and look forward to dealing with you in 2018.

Wishing you all a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2018.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: PARISH CHURCH - MITCHELSTOWN ON MONDAY, 18TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM.

8 priests will be available to hear confession.

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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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

CHURCH OF OUR LADY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN:

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve Vigil of the Nativity: 7.30pm

Night Mass of Nativity: 10.00pm

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day: Masses: 8.30am, 10am & 11.30am

(Note the extra 10.00am morning Mass) N.B.: No Evening Mass on Christmas Day Tuesday 26th December – Feast of St. Stephen, 1st Martyr: Mass at 11.00am.

Weekday Masses from Wednesday 27th December to Saturday 30th December at 11am only.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION will close on Saturday, 23rd December at 7.00pm and resume after the 11am Mass on Thursday, 28th December.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, KILLACLUIG:

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve: Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm Monday 25th December – Christmas Day: Mass 10.30am

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, BALLYGIBLIN:

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve: Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm Monday 25th December – Christmas Day: Mass 9.30am

Let's Celebrate Family:Six Sessions over six nights – Tuesday 6th February to Tuesday 13th 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, 6th 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 6th February. Contact Patricia at the Parish Office.