#### **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 O'Learyis on Sick Call this week; Phone Number: 087 – 2524979

**PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS:** 

mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com
DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY

Office Open: 9 am to 12 noon – Monday to Friday.
Parish Website: www.mitchelstownparish.ie

E-mail address for Parish Pastoral Council is mitchelstownppc@gmail.com

**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

**EUCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR:**Thursday evening at **8.00pm** – **9.00pm**with

special prayers for peace and Eucharistic Healing Blessing.

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

On THIS Sunday (Dec 18<sup>th</sup>) 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. It will be a valuable time of prayer and reflection.

## **CONFESSIONS IN PARISH CHURCH:**

Penitential Rite (with eight Priests for Confession) on tomorrow, Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. The prayers will be led by Redemptorist, Fr. Bernard Jones.

Confessions on Friday: 12.00 – 1.00pm

Confessions on Saturday (Christmas Eve): 12.00-1.00pm & 3.00 – 4.00pm We encourage you all to receive the Sacrament in preparation for Christmas.

#### Life's Like That

John's business had just gone bust, yet thieves broke in at night, hauled him from the bed, and declared "We are looking for your money".

"Turn on the light" said John, "and I will look with you".

"When you have accomplished your daily task, go to bed in peace; God is awake". V. Hugo

# Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 8 Issue: 25Date: Sunday 18thDecember 2016

Come to my Aid St. Joseph: As we come to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, we are met with the troubles of St. Joseph. He was engaged and betrothed to Mary. This period usually lasted a year before they got married and lived together. It was during this period that Mary received the apparition of the Angel Gabriel and that Mary Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. When St. Joseph learned of the pregnancy, he must have become very distressed. He was so distressed, in fact, that he had decided to break off the engagement/betrothal, which at this time was legally binding. He had decided to do it quietly and not in public, in order to save Mary public shame. This was how serious Joseph's situation was and how troubling it must have been for him. It was in the midst of this distress that the Angel came to Joseph in his dream and told him not to be afraid to marry Mary, because she had conceived by the Holy Spirit. He revealed to him that she was expecting a son and he was to give Him the name Jesus, because He was to be Saviour of his people. The distress of Joseph lifted and he obeyed the Voice of the Angel. He married Mary and she gave birth to Jesus our Saviour. It demanded great faith and humility from Mary and Joseph and it must have been humanly very difficult for them both.

When we are distressed and are faced with difficult situations, we can find consolation in St. Joseph and ask him to come to our aid.

#### "Alex was a lovely boy, full of fun, always smiling"

There's a week to go to Christmas 2016 and let us pray we will all have a happy Christmas. But let us also spare a special thought and prayer for those who lost loved ones this year. One such family will be the Ryan family from Milstreet. In the January of this year, 18 year old Alex lost his life as a result of taking drugs at a party in Cork City. This leaves his mother Irene and family with incredible heartbreak this Christmas. But Irene is not the only mother and parent with this heartbreak. The Health Research Board released very disturbing statistics this past week, revealing that there was an average of two drug related deaths every day in Ireland during 2014. In the ten year period between 2004 and 2014, there were 6,697 drug related deaths in Ireland. The figures produced by the Health Research Board last week for 2014, the most recent year with data available, shows that 697 people had drug related deaths compared with 431 in 2004. A 62% increase in ten years. Prescription drugs were a factor in three out of every four drug overdoses, during 2014, and two thirds of people who died that year took a mixture of drugs, with an average of four drugs involved. Taking multiple drugs was shown to be a significant risk factor for fatal overdose.

These are very serious figures for our country. The coming of Christ seeks to call us to a better and happier way of life. We appeal to everybody stay away from drugs, you will end up, either in jail or dead and bring heartbreak to your own family or somebody else's family.

May the Lord comfort those who grieve this Christmas.

**ALL WELCOME** to join with **C.B.S. Primary** staff and pupils for their **Advent Ceremony**, whichwill be celebrated in the **Parish Church on Tuesday**, **20**<sup>th</sup> **December from 11.15am.** Everybody at CBS Primary wishes the Community a Very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2017.

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The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

<u>Anyone wishing to advertise in the Parish Newsletter for weeks – 1<sup>st</sup>&8<sup>th</sup> January, please haveyour articles into the Parish Office no later than 10am Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December. We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Newsletter during 2016 and look forward to dealing with you in 2017.</u>

Wishing you all a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2017.

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**Mitchelstown Citizens Information Centre** will be closed for the Christmas holidays, from Thursday,  $22^{nd}$  December and will reopen on Thursday,  $5^{th}$  January.

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**Killacluig Church:** There will be Choir at Mass today, Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December and a Choir Practice will take place afterwards, for Christmas. Come along, if you'd like to join in for Christmas. Contact Caitriona on 086-3760487. All welcome. The more the merrier!! Musicians and singers wanted. There will be choir at all Christmas ceremonies in Killacluig. All welcome to join in.

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Bunscoil na Toirbhirte will hold their Annual Carol Service in the Parish Church on Thursday,  $22^{nd}$  December from 11.00am-12.00pm

All are welcome.

Following a beautiful Healing Service, that was held recently in Ballygiblin Church, with Fr. T.C. Anthony, Spiritual Healing Priest, based in Carmelite Community in Kildare, a **Healing Mass & Blessing of the sick**, will be celebrated by Fr. T.C. and Canon Michael Fitzgerald in **Holy Family Church, Ballygiblin on Wednesday evening, 28<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**. Everybody welcome.

#### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

The sympathy of the Parish Community is extended to the family and friends of —

Sheila McCarthy, Corpus Christi Nursing Home,

Kieran Colgan, Kilworth,

Tom Roche, Anglesboro,

John Begley, Manager Firgrove Hotel,

Willie Joe Caplice, Kildrum,

Eileen Fox, Killee House,

Johnny Quinn, Mulberry,

Catherine O'Donoghue, Ballygiblin.

Who died recently.

May TheyRest In Peace

#### 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: CHURCH OF OUR LADY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, MITCHELSTOWN:

Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December – 12 noon to 1pm

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec (Christmas Eve) – 12noon to 1pm & 3pm to 4pm.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

# Church of Our Lady Conceived Without Sin, Mitchelstown

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

Vigil of the Nativity: 7.30pm Carol Recital: 9.30pm Night Mass of Nativity: 10.00pm

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day: Masses: 8.30am, 10am & 11.30am

(note the extra 10.00am morning Mass)

N.B.: No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December – **Feast of St. Stephen, 1**<sup>st</sup> **Martyr** 

Mass at 11.00am.

Weekday Masses from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December at 11am only.

# St. Joseph's Church, Killacluig

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve:

Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day:

Mass 10.30am

# Church of the Holy Family. Ballygiblin

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve:

Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day:

Mass 9.30am

# CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR THE PRIESTS: will be taken up on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. The Priests wish to thank all the parishioners for their generosity to their collections.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** will close on Christmas Eve before the 10am Mass and resume after the 11am Mass on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> December.

The Priests of the Parish wish You a Holy and Happy Christmas,