CLERGY:

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: *12pm* Phone: 025-84090. Phone: 025-84088. Phone: 025-84077. Phone: 025-84062.**Open 9am-**

Fr. Burke is 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 – Mondav to Fridav.

• First Holy Communion: The boys from C.B.S. Primary will receive their 1st Holy Communion at **11.30am Mass next Sunday**. We ask you to support the boys and their families and to pray for them.

•Bus to Knock: will leave the Town Square Saturday, June 2^{nd} at 7.15am, for the All Ireland Rosary Rally. Adults $\notin 20$, Children $\notin 10$. Names to Sacristy or Parish Office.

•<u>CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION:</u> The Procession will take place on **Sunday, June 3rd after the 11.30am Mass.** The Route is; The Blessed Eucharist will be carried down Chapel Hill, turn right onto Main Street, down Lower Cork Street to the Traffic Lights, left onto Baldwin Street, left onto Thomas Street and finishing at the Town Hall grounds with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

• Next Sunday is the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. It is the last day to fulfil our Easter duty by receiving Confession and Holy Communion.

Easter duty by receiving confession and nory communion.		
Church of Our Lady Conceived Without Sin, Mitchelstown:		
MASS TIMES: Saturday & Ev	e of Holy Day:	7.30pm
Sunday & Holy Day:		8.30am, 11.30am & 7.30pm.
Weekdays:		8.30am & 10.00am
<u>FIRST FRIDAYS:</u>	8.30am, 10.00am & 7.30pm.	
Bank Holidays:	11am	
MORNING PRAYER:	Monday – Friday: 8.00am	
ROSARY:	Monday – Saturday: 9.45am	
<u>CONFESSIONS:</u> 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>DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS:</u> Friday at 3.00pm . All welcome.		
EUCHARISTIC HEALING HOUR: Thursday evening at 8.00pm – 9.00pm		
with Special Reflections on the Holy Spirit, prayers for the Country and Eucharistic		
Healing Blessing.		
Church of the Holy Family, Ballygiblin		
MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy	Day : 9.30am.	First Friday: 7.30pm.
<u>CONFESSIONS:</u> First Friday: 7.00pm.		
St. Joseph's Church, Killacluig		
MASS TIMES: Sunday & Holy	Day:10.30am.	First Friday: 6.30pm.
CONFESSIONS: First Fi	riday: 6.00pm.	

Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 9 Issue: 45Date: Sunday 20th May 2018

Pastoral letter by Bishop William Crean on the right to life. - Decision The Referendum on 25 May calls for a decision. The first and critical responsibility is that you exercise your say by voting in the Referendum. The text of the Eighth Amendment in the Constitution reads: 'The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.'

While this Amendment was introduced in 1983 it has stood the test of time. In saying this I am aware that those seeking its repeal reject its aspiration as too restrictive and quote difficult and tragic situations where it has proved inadequate in their view. However on 7 March the Supreme Court ruled that **it is now the only protection for the unborn** in the Constitution.Our decision calls for the greater good of humanity, the protection of the unborn and the care of the individual woman to be balanced. I am convinced by the statements of obstetricians of long standing who vouch that their care of individual women has not been restricted by the Eighth Amendment. *The Protection of Life during Pregnancy Act* can best provide for difficult and tragic pregnancies. When this debate began it started out dealing with difficult issues like rape, incest and non-viable pregnancies. What is now proposed is light years away from very rare and restricted circumstances to a proposal that provides for termination of perfectly viable pregnancies. I detect sinister intentions at work here (Matt 10:24-31).

In making our decision we need to be alert to what has evolved in other countries where similar proposals to ours have been put in place. The destruction of unborn lives has not just become legal but also taken for granted and routine. Do we wish to create a society whereby we are desensitized to the destruction of the unborn? When something is legalised, in the eyes of many, it is morally acceptable? When we lose sensitivity to care for the unborn we risk becoming equally insensitive to the frail and elderly.The invitation to be pro-choice is presented as being morally neutral. The fact is **the unborn have no choice.** Our choice can be a matter of life and death unless we as a society protect them and vindicate their right to life.

A compassionate society will do all in its power to support and love the mother and the baby and encourage responsible support from fathers. (Statement of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, Spring 2018).

Choose Life! My brothers and sisters in Christ. In the light of these reflections on the debate, the nature of discernment leading to a decision I invite you to CHOOSE LIFE! That means voting <u>No</u> to the proposal to repeal the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution which seeks to vindicate the right to life of both the mother and her unborn child.

I appeal to you to exercise your vote and participate in this national decision on how we wish to treat the unborn into the future.

Continue to pray for the health and wellbeing of the expectant mothers.

Best Wishes to Bunscoil na Toirbhirte Second Class Girls today, on making their First Holy Communion, From all at Bunscoil na Toirbhirte

May – The Month dedicated to Mary, the Holy Mother of Jesus: Throughout the month, the Rosary will also be recited at theGrotto on Cahir Hilleach evening at **8.00pm** (except on Thursdays, due to the Holy Hour, it will be on at 7.30pm).

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C.B.S. Primary is running a Golf Classic on Thursday, 31st May & Friday, 1st June. Proceeds towards our 'Field Development Fund', with a view to providing our pupils with safe access to and from the school premises. Contributions are invited towards sponsoring a Team, Individual Golfer or Tee Box. A great day is guaranteed, with great prizes up for grabs. For more details, please contact the school on 025 24505 or e-mail: <u>cbsmitchprimoffice@gmail.com</u>

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TONE UP:YOUTH aged 7-16: Fanahan McSweeney Athletic Club invite budding athletes to St. Fanahan's College / Kilworth Parochial field on Tuesday / Friday @ 7 pm. Be the next Sonia / John Treacy. **SENIORS over 60**: Tesco Mitchelstown meeting room (quiet & temp controlled) 7-8 pm Wednesday. Be flexible, balanced, and strong.Book 087.3589734

Diane's Mystery Tour 20th June: leaving the Mart, Mitchelstown at 9am, going touring for the day. Cost \notin 75, incl. tea/scones, dinner. Guided tours to all venues. Deposit of \notin 30 to be paid in full by 5th June, deposit non-refundable. Book early. **Bus Tour to Edinburgh 27th – 31st August**, leaving Mitchelstown at 8.30am to Belfast. 5 Days / 4 Nights Dinner, B & B included, cost \notin 730, deposit \notin 100 non-refundable to secure place. Booking now being taken, closing date 31st May. Contact Diane 087-1478030 or Mai 087-6283266.

~~~~~ People of Mitchelstown! **Foróige** is recruiting volunteers for new clubs and programmes for young people in your Community now! Start the conversation on how you can make a difference to the lives of young people by contacting Emma on

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086-4134777

Annual Mass and Healing Service in aid of All-Ireland Rosary Rally, Leahy's Open Farm, Dungourney on Friday 8th June, commencing at 7.00pm with Rosary. Chief Celebrant: Canon Michael Fitzgerald, Guest Speaker: Eddie Stones, from Emmanuel House of Prayer, Clonfert. All Welcome. Contact Eileen (086) 8057631

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The **Annual Green Ribbon Walk** to help reduce the stigma that is attached to mental illness will take place in **Doneraile Park** on **Sunday 20th May** at **3 o'clock**. Registration is free and refreshments will be served.

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Mitchelstown Community Pre-School: Enrolments are now being taken for August/September 2018. Operating E.C.C.E. Scheme *(free school year)*. Experienced and Fully Trained Staff. If you wish to enrol your child, please contact Mary at 086-883 2533 or home 025-24697, or Tina at 086-8454870.

Fundraising Event: Ballygiblin N.S. Parent Council – New & Used Clothes & Shoes Collection, Tuesday29th May, from 9am to 3pm and 6pm to 8pm & Wednesday 30th May, up to 10am, at Ballygiblin School. *No mobile phones*. Any queries, please contact Noelle Luddy on 087-8158902. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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Mass for Exam Students: You are all invited to a Special Mass, both, parishioners and students, their families and friends, for all our exam students on **Monday evening, June 4th at 7.30pm in the Parish Church.** The Mass is being organised by the Parish Pastoral Council, in order to pray and support all exam students in our locality. Before the Mass students will have an opportunity to write their first name on a piece of paper, which will be placed on the Altar during Mass. Parishioners, will be invited to take a name and pray for the student throughout the exam period. We pray for all our young people involved in exams this year, including third level students, who have completed their exams. Our young people are very important to us and we want them to know that we understand the strains and challenges that face them. While we ask the Holy Spirit to guide them to success in their exams, we also pray for their happiness and protection in all their decisions and undertakings. So, you are all invited to come along to the Mass and to actively support and pray for God's Blessing on our young people at this important time in their lives.

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Time On Your Hands? If so, please come along to "**Forrest Hall**" on **Tuesday, 22nd May** at **2pm**. We are a new friendly group and we would like to add a bit of "Get Up & Go" to your lives. To find out more, come along to the above hall for a cuppa & a chat. Over 50's Women & Men are welcome.

World Meeting of Families Dublin 22^{nd} - 26^{th} Aug. How to get tickets for the Festival of Families at WMOF? Please be aware, that tickets for the Festival of Families will be very limited. If you want to guarantee yourself and your family a ticket for the evening with Pope Francis in Croke Park on August 25^{th} / or Phoenix Park Sunday, 26^{th} August , the only way to do this, as of now, is to book at least one day at the RDS Congress from August 22-24. This gives you the option of selecting a ticket for the Festival of Families and /or the Closing Mass for no additional cost. Cost for both days is <u>approximately</u> \notin 74 (Ticket for the Friday - \notin 38, bus for both days - \notin 36, no charge for the Sunday ticket – there may be a small concession for over 65's). So please contact the Parish Office to book your place. All U18's are free but must be registered with an adult. There will be exciting and full children and youth Programmes running alongside the adult Programme, and remember, our Diocesan day at the Congress is Friday, August 24^{th} .

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The **Naíonra Preschool** operates the ECCE Free Preschool year and is situated in the grounds of Bunscoil na Toirbhirte. We are now enrolling for September 2018 and would love to hear from you. Phone (083) 3299353

We remember in our prayers all who are ill (and their families) at Home or in Hospital at this time.