**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 – Patricia Dwane: Phone: 025-84062. Open 9am-12pm Fr. Burkeis on Sick Call this week; Phone Number: 087 – 2524979 PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS: mitchelstownparishofficechurch@gmail.com DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS 10AM WEDNESDAY •There will be No Newsletter next weekend, 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December. • Feast days: Tuesday - St. Stephen, Wednesday - St. John, the Apostle, Thursday - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. •Christmas Offerings for the Priests: will be taken up on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. We thank you for your support. CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: CHURCH OF OUR LADY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve Vigil of the Nativity: 7.30pm Night Mass of Nativity: 10.00pm Monday 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 Dav Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – Feast of St. Stephen, 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr: Mass at 11.00am. Weekday Masses from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 11am only. EUCHARISTIC ADORATION will close on Saturday, 23rd December at 7.00pm and resume after the 11am Mass on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> December. Saturday: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm **CONFESSIONS:** Eve of First Fridays & Eve of Holy Days: 12.00-1.00pm & 7.00-7.30pm We encourage families to practice monthly Confession EUCHARISTIC HEALING PRAYERS: Thursday Evening 8.00-9.00pm with special prayers for peace and Eucharistic Healing Blessing. **DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS:** Friday at **3.00pm**. All welcome. ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, KILLACLUIG: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve: Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day: Mass 10.30am **CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, BALLYGIBLIN:** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve: Night Mass of Nativity: 9pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day: Mass 9.30am JANUARY 2018: We thank those who collected during December. The Collectors for January take over the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Seamus Carey, Bridget Sherlock, & Pat Manning. Vigil 7.30pm: 8.30am: Neil Egan, Con Hogan, William Fox & Michael Boland. 11.30am: John Casey, Eddie Lynch, Seamus Mannix & Matt O'Sullivan. 7.30pm: Verling Fitzgerald, Tom Lucey & Ger Corbett. EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: We thank Team **"D". Team "A"** take over the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

# Mitchelstown Parish & Community Newsletter

Volume: 9 Issue: 26Date: Sunday 24thDecember2017

**Our Parish Community** of Mitchelstown, Ballygiblin and Killacluig, is grateful for all those who volunteer in a special way, to help the running of the Parish throughout the year. There are so many groups of different people helping, that in making a list, you could risk leaving someone out, but at the same time, volunteers must be identified. Every parishioner makes his or her own contribution, but without the extra help of volunteers, you couldn't run a Parish.

We are blessed with three Secondary Schools and four Primary Schools, whose support to the Parish is second to none. Without their support to the faith formation of our young people, we would be at a great loss. We are also grateful to those who volunteer their time so generously in school Board of Managements and Parents Associations. The following is a list of our various volunteers: Choirs and their Directors, Organists, Readers and those who organise them, Extra-ordinary Ministers and those who organise them, our three Church Sacristans, Altar Servers, Collectors, Counters and those who organise them, those who take care of the Altar linen, those who arrange the Altar Flowers, those who do Church cleaning and take care of the Church grounds, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, Legion of Mary volunteers, Pioneers and the Carmelite Lourdes Group, A.A. Group, Town Hall Caretaker and Committee, Home delivery distributors, Parish Secretary, Liturgical Co-ordinators, Faith Camp Committee, St. Fanahan's Well Committee, Youth 2000 Group, Cemetery Carers, Community Council and other Community Volunteers and Sports and Social activities, prayer groups, Eucharistic Adorers, Brass Band and Baptismal Team. We also acknowledge the help of various professional services and their staff.

The list could possibly go on, but an enormous amount of generosity needs to be acknowledged. For this reason the Parish Pastoral Council have arranged that the **7.30pm Mass on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>be** offered for all our volunteers' intentions and in appreciation of their services to our community. All are invited to the Forrest Hall afterwards for light refreshments.

**Great News for the Church in Ireland:** On Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis signed the document recognising the heroic virtues of Fr. Patrick Peyton and so declaring him Venerable and furthering his cause for Beatification and Canonisation. Fr. Patrick Peyton was born in Attymass, Co. Mayo, on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1909. Like many Irish people, he emigrated to America in 1928 with other family members. Patrick had a dream of becoming a priest and after various struggles he was accepted by the Holy Cross Order. Towards the end of his studies, his dream seemed shattered, when he became ill with tuberculosis and he was on the point of death. This crisis led him to dig deep to the faith he learned in his family home, praying the daily Rosary. Encouraged by his sister Nelly and an Irish priest, Fr. O'Flaherty, he prayed for a miracle and while at deaths door, he was miraculously cured. He believed through the intercession of Our Lady. *Continued over the page* 

# There will be No Newsletter next weekend, 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The Parish Office isclosed for the Christmas Holidays from Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. 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.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society. Meeting Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, at 7 p.m. in Marian Hall, Convent Hill. New Members always welcome

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

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

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 6364845or 086 6077595.

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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**Mitchelstown Branch Concern** wish to sincerely thankthe Parishioners of Mitchelstown, Killacluig, Ballygiblin, Kilbehenny and Anglesborough for their generous contribution towards our recent Church Gate collection. To the many collectors who gave freely of their time and to the many people who contributed so generously, we say thank you. A total of  $\notin 2,140.32$  was raised.

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**Mitchelstown Carmelite Lourdes Group** presents **Christmas Cracker Dance** with Crystal Swing and Jimmy O'Donoghue & Band on Saturday night  $30^{\text{th}}$  December at the Firgrove Hotel. Admission  $\notin 15$ . Doors open at 8.30pm.

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**Mitchelstown Parish Summer Faith Camp:**will take place from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018. More details later.

#### Great News for the Church in Ireland continued from page one:

He went on to be ordained in the late 1930's and in gratitude for his cure, he was inspired to promote family prayer by means of the daily Rosary. He was the first pioneer of evangelism, through mass media, using radio, film, advertising and eventually television, with the help of many Hollywood celebrities. He coined the phrase: "the family that prays together, stays together" and "a world at prayer is a world at peace". He made a number of beautiful short films on praying the Rosary. You could look them up over Christmas. He died on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1992. May he pray for us, our family and our country. This is a beautiful Christmas gift.

**Enrolments in Mitchelstown Second-level Schools** - A gentle reminder to parents/guardians of 6<sup>th</sup> class students that the closing date for receipt of applications for places in First Year 2018/19 in the second level schools in Mitchelstown is **Monday January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact the schools should you require any information. CBS - 025 24104 / cbssecmtown@gmail.com

Presentation – 025 24394 / pressecmtown@gmail.com Coláiste Fionnchua – 025 24314 / info@stfanahans.ie

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## Enrolment for Courses in the Ozanam Center, Thomas Street

Intermediate Computers Monday 15<sup>th</sup>January (6 Weeks)

ECDL Advanced spreadsheets (excel) Wed 17<sup>th</sup>January (14 weeks) Beginners Typing Monday 26<sup>th</sup>January (6 weeks) Please contact the Ozanam Center on 025 84733 for further information.

lease contact the Ozanam Center on 025 84/33 for further information.

### **"THE OLD CANDLELIGHT"**

There's an old Irish Custom, They practice it still,

A bright burning candle on each windowsill, Mary and Joseph, to guide on their way. And a Ceád Míle Failte to welcome their stay.

Each home is a stable all over again, Like Christmas morning in Bethlehem.

All over Ireland on Christmas Eve night, Irish hearts still reflecting the old candlelight Poem by the late Christy Price R.I.P.

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**Envelope System:** Some enquiries were made about the change of reference/envelope numbers. This is necessary to keep the system in order - so you may find from year to year, you will have a different number.

If anyone did not receive their box of envelopes and wish to have one, please contact the Parish Office.

P.T.A.A. Private Members Draw Results Wednesday, 20th December:	
	P & M Coyle, Strabane, Co Tyrone
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:</b> €400	C Eustace, Castlebar, Co Mayo
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:</u> €200	S Quigley, Mitchelstown, Co Cork.(Promoter John Casey)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Prize:</b> €100	The Kelly Grandchildren, Co Carlow
Six Promoters Prizes of €40 each; •K Leamy, Co Tipperary. •S Kennedy, Co	
Kilkenny. •R Glackin, Derry City. •M Byrne, Co Louth. •R Glackin, Derry City.•J	
Regan, Co Meath. The next draw will be held on Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2018. Local	
promoter John (087) 6477897.	