



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

Telephone: 021- 4341362 Website: www.smawilton.ie email: stjosephschurchwilton@yahoo.com

Mass Times LIVE via the webcam
Monday - Friday 10am and 5.35 pm
Saturday: 10 am Vigil Mass: 6 pm
Sunday: 9 am, 10.30 am and 12 noon

"Go search diligently for the young child"

Isn't it strange that it should be the arch-tyrant King Herod who gave what is perhaps the best advice anyone could give at this time of the year? That is should be he, the brutal murderer of the babes of Bethlehem, who spoke those words to the Magi, words which inspire us today as they encouraged them, **"Go and search diligently for the young child."** (Mt 2:8).

God is full of surprises. We do not always find him where we expected him to be, and then suddenly there comes a hint, a nudge, a throwaway word or a piece of advice from Herod, and there he is. Of all the characters in the Christmas story – Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, the Magi – Herod is not the one we'd single out as having anything to say to us. But there it is, **"Go and search diligently for the child"**.

The wise men took the advice and followed the directions given by Herod. They found the One they were looking for in the place Herod sent them. It was the end of a long search. It was also the beginning of another journey. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod and they went back by "another way". **When we meet Jesus, the direction of our life is changed.**

2020 – Ministry by Web Cam.

Who would have taught at the start of 2020 that so much of our year would be confined to the Web Cam. While it was a new experience, it proved to be a very challenging and rewarding experience. I would like to thank the many people who made the experience so rewarding for the parish. I'd like to thank my fellow priests, parish ministers, parish secretary who managed idonate and the many emails, the person who maintained the parish website and web cam. I would also like to acknowledge the many people who took time to contact us with notes of encouragement.

The role played by the Web Cam in the life of the parish can be observed from the figures provided by the company who run the service – Church Services.

During 2020 we had 299,368 viewers, it involved people watching for 122,243 hours and from 101 countries around the world.

For our Christmas charity we are supporting– Aid to the church in Need.

We have to date collected €4,259. This is a deserving charity; we support people who do not have the freedom we have to practice their faith as we do. We are restricted by the virus and hopefully in time all will be well again. But for these people this will not be so.

To show your support we ask people to place a red ribbon on our Christmas Tree and place your donation in the box. The red covering the church's external lights is a statement of support to this cause.

Thank you, this is a great effort for our Christmas charity. We will continue our appeal until the end of the Christmas season. – 10th January 2021.

A New Year's Prayer to help those in need.



May all of my family members and friends who need a New Year miracle be blessed.

May whoever has had a bad year face this new year with hope in their heart.

May all of those who have had heavy burdens this year have their load lightened and the opportunity to enjoy the New Year.

and **May** the person reading this prayer have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Share this New Year's prayer on your wall for all of those who may need it.

Christmas and New Year Reading.

A new publication might help people face 2021 with new meaning and energy are: **Trellis for the Soul by Martina Lehan Sheehan - €14.99.**
"A vision of hope for challenging times"

Copies of our Parish Calendar 2021 is available at Church entrances.

The cost of publication is from proceeds of our Parish Pastoral fund collections during the year.

TAX BACK 2021

The Tax Back Scheme has been a great benefit to the parish during these difficult financial times. Parishioners should be grateful to people who sustained their contributions during 2020. Unless people reach the figure of €250 by the end of the year their names cannot be submitted for tax relief. So far this year we have received € 11,570.45 from the scheme. Thanks again to all who are participating.

Envelopes for 2021 have been slow in arriving due to postal delays but are now ready for collection. As we begin a new year we again ask members paying tax to register, if they have not done so yet. 2021 could be as difficult a year as 2020 was financially for the parish. This program does not cost people anything; just a commitment to use envelopes in making their financial payments to the church.

The Parish Centre re-opens Monday 4th January 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered
all things and night was in the middle
of its course, your all-powerful Word,
O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal
throne.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and
blood: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on Us..... **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of
faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the
world with your glory, and show yourself to
all peoples by the radiance of your light.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2.8-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Wisdom speaks her own praises,
in the midst of her people she glories in
herself.

She opens her mouth in the assembly of the
Most High, she glories in herself in the
presence of the Mighty One.

'Then the creator of all things instructed me,



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jesus is the One sent by God who speaks to us about the
wisdom and truth of God. By accepting him we too become
children of God and are filled with grace and truth.

3rd. January 2021



and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.
He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob,
make Israel your inheritance."
From eternity, in the beginning, he created
me, and for eternity I shall remain.
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,
and thus was I established on Zion.
In the beloved city he has given me rest,
and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.
I have taken root in a privileged people
in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.147:12-15.19-20

**R. The Word was made flesh,
and lived among us.**

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. **[R]**
2. He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. **[R]**
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. **[R]**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual
blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world
was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be
holy and spotless, and to live through love in his
presence, determining that we should become
his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his
own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory
of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard
about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love
that you show towards all the saints, have never
failed to remember you in my prayers and to
thank God for you. May the God of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit
of wisdom and perception of what is revealed,
to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he

enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can
see what hope his call holds for you, what rich
glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ,
proclaimed to the pagans;
Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the
world. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL John1:1-18 (or *1:1-5.9-14*)

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John. (shorter version in italics)*

**In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.**

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

**The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh,
or will of man but of God himself.*

*The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us, and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son
of the Father, full of grace and truth.**



John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us,
received - yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through
Moses, grace and truth have come through
Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the
Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and life everlasting. **Amen.**

✠ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ✠

Pray, brothers and sisters,

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your
hands for the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and the good of all his
holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make
on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,
for by it you show us the way of truth
and promise the life of the heavenly
Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and
profess your Resurrection until you come
again.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**To all who would accept him, he gave the
power to become children of God.**