

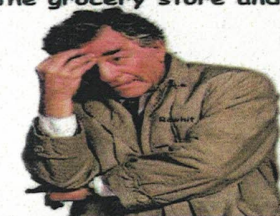


## St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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So let me get this straight, I go to the grocery store and buy:

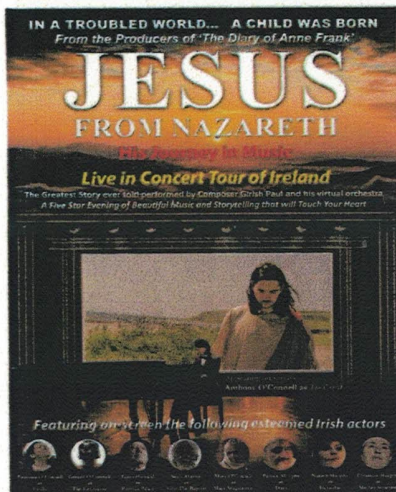


A pound of sliced ham in a plastic bag, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins in plastic wrap, a store-made salad in a plastic tub, a plastic bottle of mustard and ketchup, but they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the plastic bag is bad for the environment?

### THE GOSPEL FOR LENT.

Nicodemus comes by night – he is afraid to let anyone see that he is even taking what Jesus has to say, and yet Jesus shares the light that he is in the world with him generously. Do we love the light that reveals the truth about ourselves, our families, our church, our parish, our country? Or do we love the darkness more? Are we afraid to be associated with Jesus and so practice our religion only at certain times, or privately?

Easter time is a good time to consider buying a religious item or a spiritual book for a family member or friend. Children especially can be helped by sharing some material on the Easter story. Check out the Mass Office and see what might be helpful at this time of the year.



Composer Girish Paul brings his production of "Jesus from Nazareth" to the Parish Centre on Saturday 23rd March. For more information see [www.girishpaul.com](http://www.girishpaul.com)

### LENTEN TALKS 2024

**THE CRYPT, CHURCH OF THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK.**

Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm

Rosemarie McDonald, Biodiversity Officer, Cork City Council

### CONFESSION FOR LENT

After a meeting of our Family of Parishes, it was decided that we would combine and have one Lenten confession ceremony involving all of our parishes. This will take place on Palm Sunday 24th March at Curraheen Church at 5 pm.

### YOU COME HERE NOT TO GAZE AT GOD – BUT TO LET GOD GAZE AT YOU

Our parish Lenten challenge of making a commitment to setting aside 15 minutes a day for Lent is proving to be perhaps the best spiritual initiative undertaken in our parish. To date we have **94** who have signed their names to participate. It's hoped that after Easter people who participated would meet and we would share our experiences and we might come to agree on some options that might emerge from the discussion for the good of the parish. The fruits of this exercise might be a good challenge for the Family of Parishes in the Dioceses. People are still free to join in the experience, just sign your name.

You can sign your name and pledge to commit yourself to 15 minutes

We are supporting a charity appeal by CUH intensive care unit. In anticipation of St. Patrick's Day they are selling Shamrock skillets. The unit cares for those who are critically ill from serious accidents or serious infection or major surgery.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Friday mornings after 10am Mass there are Stations of the Cross in the house grounds weather permitting. If not possible, other options will be considered and made known on the day.

Again this year we are supporting a charity appeal by CUH intensive care unit. In anticipation of St. Patrick's Day they are selling Shamrock skillets. The unit cares for those who are critically ill from serious accidents or serious infection or major surgery.

### PARISH CHARITY FOR LENT

During Lent we will be supporting Trócaire. Each year our response is very generous. To date we have collected €1,300.

A major source of income for Trócaire is the money box that they make available in their Lenten package. The packages are available in the church, it is an interesting way of encouraging family members or friends to join in the support of Trócaire.

Another way of supporting Trócaire is the sale of spiritual books. This has proved very successful for different charities. If people have any spiritual



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## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult  
and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners:  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the  
Father to intercede for us:  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us....

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race to yourself in a  
wonderful way, grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ .....

## ✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

### FIRST READING 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

*A reading from the second book of Chronicles.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(Laetare Sunday)

10th March 2024

Jesus offers a message of hope and salvation to the whole world.



the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. 136)

**R. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps. (R)

2. For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
'Sing to us,' they said,  
'one of Zion's songs.' (R)

3. O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! (R)

4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! (R)

### SECOND READING Ephesians 2:4-10

*A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from

God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal  
glory! God loved the world so much that he  
gave his only Son; everyone who believes  
in him has eternal life. Praise to you, O  
Christ, king of eternal glory!**

### GOSPEL John 3:14-21

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*  
Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal  
life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave  
his only Son, so that everyone who believes in  
him may not be lost but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world not to  
condemn the world, but so that through him the  
world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned  
already, because he has refused to believe  
in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:  
that though the light has come into the world  
men have shown they prefer darkness to  
the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates  
the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should  
be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth  
comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly  
seen that what he does is done in God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the  
Father; through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*All bow for following three lines:*

**and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was  
buried, and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead and his kingdom will  
have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the  
giver of life, who proceeds from the Father  
and the Son, who with the Father and  
the Son is adored and glorified, who has  
spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,  
catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins and I look forward to the  
resurrection of the dead and the life of the  
world to come. Amen

## ✠ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ✠

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these  
offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O  
Lord, praying that we may both faithfully  
revere them and present them to you, as is  
fitting, for the salvation of all the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as  
one together. It is there that the tribes go  
up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the  
name of the Lord.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who  
comes into this world, illuminate our hearts,  
we pray, with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder what is worthy  
and pleasing to your majesty and love you  
in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.