



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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We always work for a better tomorrow. But when tomorrow comes, instead of enjoying, we again think of a better tomorrow! Let's have a better today.

THE EASTER GOSPEL

This Sunday is about the vine, the branches and the fruit of the vine that make the wine for the joy of others to share together. However we must also remember what it's like to grow grapes, to severely trim the vines and branches, paying painstaking attention to weather, water and soil condition. Even birds and other plants can destroy a crop quickly.

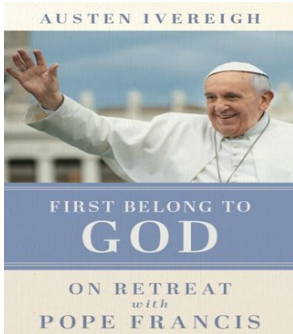
New Book On Sale

Most of the teachings of Jesus have come down to us in the form of parables, parables that we have many times heard which cause us to miss the deeper meaning of the stories. One of our SMA priests has compiled another interesting book containing a selection of modern day parables, equally challenging as were those of Jesus. It's called "**Stories with a Message**" and it's on sale in the Mass Office at €10 a copy. Worth a read.

The following is one of the stories from the book:

The Three Legged Stool

In the days before milking machines and milking parlours, cows were milked by hand with the milker sitting on a three-legged stool. If one leg was missing or loose the milker was likely to topple over. Bryan McMahon in his book "The Master" uses the example to point out that each one of us sits on a stool with three legs, Body, Mind and Spirit and if we do not take care of and develop each of the three, we too will topple over. In today's world, we can easily neglect the spirit leg and allow God to completely slip out of our lives.



Grace Is A Gift; But We Must Respond To It

The parish is offering a parish retreat based on the above book. It's grounded on the spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius. It's a program that has helped many people grow to a deeper awareness of God in their lives. The book is sponsored by the Parish from funds collected in our Pastoral Fund Sunday collections. We are targeting only about 15 people as participants. If you wish to join you are welcome. All that is expected is you register your name, we meet perhaps once a week for 8 weeks and participants will be asked to keep a journal. This is an offer that might not come your way again! Grace just doesn't happen, we must cooperate.

Parish Charity for Lent

Our Trócaire collection for 2023 comes to €8,300. We will be forwarding the cheques to a representative of Trócaire soon.

We wish to respond to an appeal from a very local charity for some financial assistance — Bru Columbanus. It's our way of acknowledging the very important service the charity provides. Let's be generous in our support. We wish to acknowledge the service of volunteers from our parish who give their time to help there. To date we have collected €605. Donations can be placed in the wall boxes at the front of the church.

SMA Pilgrimages 2024

SMA Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 15-20 Sept. 2024. Hotel Roissy. €949 per person sharing. Please contact Joe Walsh Tours 01-2410800 for more information.

SMA Wilton Pilgrimage to Knock: Saturday 25th May. Bus departing from front door of SMA Church, Wilton at 6.30 am. The bus will stop at Treacy's West County Hotel, Ennis on outbound and return journeys. Estimated time of return is 10 pm. Cost is €30 per person **BUS ONLY.** Bookings: Mass office, SMA Parish Centre, Wilton.

Children's Room in the Church

We have installed a new television in Room 9 beside the sacristy which enables parents with young children to view the Mass on weekends. If parents feel their children might be causing a disturbance in the church, we encourage them to make use of this facility.

69th International Cork Choral Festival

As part of this years Sacred Trail Programme we look forward to welcoming the Coro S'Ena Frisca, Putifigari from Italy to our parish to sing at the 6 pm Saturday Mass on the 4th May. All welcome. Come and support them.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

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.....

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, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Acts 9. 26 - 31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28th April 2024

Jesus describes his relation to us like the closeness of a branch to a tree. We are brought to life in him, grow in him as people who can love each other, and become in him a people of eternal hope.

had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 21

R. You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly. or Alleluia!

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R)**

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **(R)**

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' **(R)**

SECOND READING 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St. John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask

him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 15: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples."

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

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.