



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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PARISH CHRISTMAS CANDLE.

Last year for Christmas there was a great response to our appeal "Light a candle for Christmas". We are repeating the invitation to light our candles on Christmas Eve in our homes. It's a little gesture of bonding as a parish and for a token of €5 you can have a candle. Proceeds of the sale of the candles will be added to our Christmas charity.

This year we are selling our Christmas candles again. We invite families to purchase one and use it on Christmas Eve in your homes. All who buy the candles will, we hope, join together in a gesture of solidarity on that night.

As a lead up to Christmas I invite people to participate in a practice in preparation for the lighting of our Christmas candles. What I'm suggesting is that we take time at the end of each day where we light a candle or two or three — enough to read a book by, or to just sit and stare at the flame, which, by drawing oxygen, reminds us we need to breathe, too.

Lighting candles during this season of darkness (in the Northern Hemisphere, at least) reminds us of our call to be light in the world and is a symbol of hope of the light and promise of abundant life that comes from Jesus.

Sitting alone in a room, we can feel at peace and connected at a level that has escaped us for most of this time of pandemic. I invite you to join in this practice along with everyone else who reads this. We will be in community in our solitude. Sit and stare at a candle, read, pray, stretch, or do whatever it is that will help you unwind and slow down by candlelight. If you don't have a candle, simply get comfortable and sit in the darkness.

If we can connect with this exercise the ritual of lighting our Christmas candles on Christmas Eve will take on special meaning. Try it!



Christmas Reconciliation Service.

On Wed. 22nd during the 5.35 pm Mass we will have a pre-Christmas reflection and reconciliation service. Hopefully by then we will be more attuned to the mystery of Christmas. That we will be ready not just to acknowledge our failures, but that we will have a desire to enter more fully into the implications of what it is to celebrate the mystery of Christmas.

That we can be more like Simeon. That we can recognise the **NEW** in the Christmas message. We will then be better able to celebrate Christmas as a Christmas community.

We hope you can join us.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT.

On Thursday 23rd Dec the parish will host a Carol Service on our Web Cam. We are restricted by Covid- 19 but by means of inviting various choirs to come to the church at different times and respecting their pods we have put together an impressive selection of Christmas carols for people to enjoy.

We thank the various choirs who are participating: Scrubs from the CUH, The Wilcollane Singers; The Indian community and the children from the Gael Scoil. We also thank our readers. We thank Paul O 'Flynn and his son, David, who were the brains and technicians behind the project. We hope you can join us and enjoy the program.



KNIT FOR AFRICA.

Our Christmas charity is up and running. To date we have realized €587. In supporting the project what we ask is that people place their donation in the container by the Tree and place a red ribbon on the Christmas tree. Hopefully by the end of Christmas the tree will be covered in red ribbons.



TAX BACK 2022

We thank those members who have collected their Tax Back envelopes for 2022. There are still some to be collected. We appeal to other members who are in a position to join and support the parish financially through the program. All that is required is that a person is paying tax. If you are such a person, take a box of envelopes and register your name and phone number against the box number on the sheet provided. Use the appropriate envelopes when making offerings during the church collection. If the total amount of a person's contributions during 2022 exceeds €250 the parish can apply for an amount of over €100 from the Tax Office. That is all that is expected of a person. There are no complications, there are no Tax issues that one need to be concerned about, **but it is a very important source of income for the parish**

Christmas Arrangements 2021

Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve

Mass at 10 am and

Mass of Christmas Night at 8pm

Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day

Mass at 10.30am and 12 noon

Sunday 26th December

St. Stephen's Day

Mass at 10.30 am and 12 noon

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

GREETING

In the name of the Father Amen.
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

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..... Amen.

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Micah 5:1 - 4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mary's first journey after the annunciation was to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who needed her help. Christmas brings the question to each of us, "who needs my help?"
19th. December 2021



to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.79

R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. [R]
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. [R]
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. [R]

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 1:39 - 44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

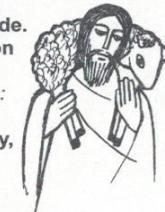
Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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 ✠

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

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing. **Amen**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.