



# St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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## CHRISTMAS A TIME TO WAKE UP!

Remember when we speak of Advent or waiting and preparing for Christmas, we're not simply waiting for the little baby Jesus to be born. That already happened 2000 years ago. We're forever welcoming the Universal Christ, the Christ that is forever being born into the human soul and into history. If God has already come to us, what are we waiting for? *That is a good question?*

We're called to awaken to what's already in our midst .... Advent is coming to a new consciousness of God, already loving us into something new, into something more whole. We're not waiting for what's not there; we're in a sense waiting for what is already there. But the other part I think is that we can think of Advent as *waiting for us to wake up!* As if we're asleep in the manger, not Jesus! Jesus is alive in our midst. What if we're in the manger and God is already awakened in our midst and we're so unconsciously asleep that God is sort of looking for "Someone to get up and help and bring the gifts into the world?"

## Christmas/New Year Arrangements 2021/2022

Sunday 26th December

St. Stephen's Day

Mass at 10.30 am and 12 noon

Monday 27th - Friday 31st December

10 am and 5.35 pm

New Year's Day

Saturday 1st January 2022 - 10am & 6pm

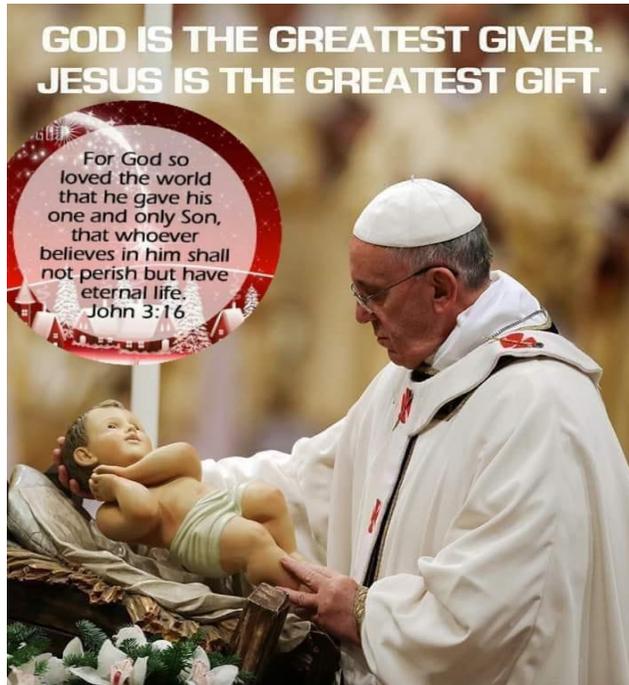
**The Parish Centre closes on Thursday 23rd**

**December at 4.30 pm and will re-open on**

**Tuesday 4th January at 8 am.**



*On behalf of the SMA community, Fr. Michael and the staff of the Parish Centre would like to wish our members and their families the blessings of the Christmas Season.*



If you missed our Christmas carol program you can view it by logging on to the website [www.smawilton.ie](http://www.smawilton.ie). It is also on YouTube [https://youtu.be/tPs\\_xgshPDQ](https://youtu.be/tPs_xgshPDQ)

### KNIT FOR AFRICA.

Our Christmas charity is KNIT FOR AFRICA. To date we have realized €1,811. To support the project, we ask people to 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.

We are also hoping to establish among ourselves a Knit and Natter group who will undertake the knitting for Africa on our behalf. A few people have nominated themselves to be part of this group. Some people might be happier to do the knitting from home while the Covid 19 crisis persists. That's OK. Again just give your name at the office. It's important that we all work according to the same plan, but at least we are doing something for Africa.

### TAX BACK 2022

All who participated in the program last year should have got their new box of envelopes for 2022. We are grateful for your financial support.

We would like to see new people who consider this to be their parish and are paying tax (self-Employed or PAYE) to join us in this program. It's a major source of income for the parish and it gives us the freedom to consider major renovations in the parish during the year.

The program does not compromise anyone regarding their tax situation. If you can support us all you need do is take a box at the back of the church and on the sheet provided write the number of the box you have taken on the sheet and fill your name and phone number in the space provided.

**Adoration is available in the church – Monday to Saturday 10.45am - 12.30 pm;**

**The timing of the Quiet Prayer for the winter months will be 6 pm to 8pm every Wednesday evening**

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

### 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

Glorify 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

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus .....

### ✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

#### FIRST READING 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28

*A reading from the first book of Samuel*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel, 'since' she said 'I



### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for them; to pray for healing of divisions and bitterness.

We pray that we may grow in respect and love for our extended family throughout the world. 26th. December 2021



asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, "If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord." There she left him, for the Lord.

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 83.

**R. They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

1. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. [R]
2. They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. [R]
3. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed. [R]

### SECOND READING 1 John 3: 1-2. 21-24

*A reading from the first letter of St. John*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

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! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL Luke 2: 41-52

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw

him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

*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 ✠

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

