



# St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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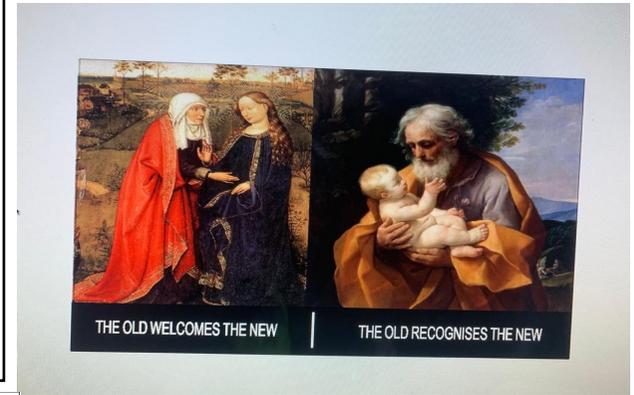


## UNDERSTANDING THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

How you imagine Christmas and the meaning of Christmas can be influenced by how we read the story as it is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We all got an understanding when we were kids but now as adults how do we read them?

The parish is offering an opportunity to listen to an account of the *two Gospel versions* of the Christmas story from a reputable Catholic theologian. All you have to do is bring a USB to the Parish Centre and they will load the content of a set of audio talks for you to take away and listen at your own convenience.

Fr. Michael stands over the content that is being shared. It might contain ideas different from what you grew up with. As St Paul said "when I was a child I thought like a child but now!" Our religion and beliefs should take account of biblical developments that are taken for granted today by the Church.



## SANCTUARY RENOVATION

The long awaited restoration to the ceiling of our sanctuary has been completed. It has been a long time coming, mostly due to Covid. The cost will be in the region of €3,000. This amount will be met from the proceeds of the many second collections taken up in the name of Church Development over the past year.

Having two collections at Mass can be a strain on people, it's at times like this that we appreciate the inconvenience.

Also it's good to know that the cost of publishing our 2022 parish calendar comes out of this fund. Copies of the calendar, with Church Christmas Dues envelopes attached, are available at the back of the church. A copy of the calendar, with Christmas dues envelope attached will be delivered to houses within the parish boundary.

Times like this is a good time to update our parish register. If you live within the parish boundary and do not receive a calendar it might be because we do not have your name and address. If so go to the Mass Office and leave your address details and it will be added to our register.

## Society of African Missions – Irish Province



It is with feelings of deep sorrow that we announce the death of our dear confrere

**Rev Fr Thomas Kearney, SMA**  
**Born in the Archdiocese of Armagh**  
**11 February 1935**

**He became a member of our Society**  
**12 June 1957**  
**Ordained to the Priesthood**  
**18 June 1958**

**1958—1969** Archdiocese of Lagos, Nigeria  
**1969—1984** Diocese of Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria  
**1984—1993** SMA Parish, West Green, London, England  
**1993—2013** Archdiocese of Tuam, Ireland  
**2013—2021** Retired, SMA House, Wilton, Cork

Fr Kearney died unexpectedly at the family home in Ardee, Co Louth, on 22 November 2021, aged 86 years.

**ETERNAL REST GRANT TO HIM, O LORD**

**Antonio Porcellato SMA**  
**Superior General**

## Trocaire special appeal.

Early in the month we took up a special collection in the parish for the needs of people in Ethiopia and South Sudan. Our appeal to date amounts to €3,674. This figure again represents testimony to the generosity of our parishioners. *We are supporting this cause for the month of November as our Parish Monthly Charity.*

## CHRISTMAS READING.

In the Mass Office is a selection of reading material which could provide one with some reflective material for yourself or a friend over the Christmas period. This is a good time to consider young people who might be estranged from the church. You never know, if they were given something to read at this time of the year, something of the Christian meaning of Christmas might be appreciated and have a consequence for their lives. There is no point in complaining about the secular world at Christmas. As the saying goes – "Put Christ back into Christmas".

*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.*

**Memorial Mass for Fr. Tom Kearney will take place here in St. Joseph's Church Wilton on Wednesday, 22nd December at 11 am.**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us..Amen

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*(The Gloria is omitted during Advent)*

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's. Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you .....

## ✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

### FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-18

*A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem; Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

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



## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Gaudete)

The coming of Jesus is joyful news for all his people. Our hope at Christmas is to be bearers of his joy.

12th. December 2021



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6

**R. Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. [R]
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples, declare the greatness of his name. [R]
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. [R]

### SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL Luke 3:10-18

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

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the

same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

*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

