



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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SEASON CREATION – SEPT 2022: WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Extreme weather phenomena have caused brutal fires in the northern hemisphere this year. In the



Horn of Africa, 20 million people are facing famine conditions after four years of failed rains in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan, according to the World Food Programme.

What is most devastating is that many of these disasters could have been avoided. Our uncontrolled pillaging of the earth and her resources, and our destruction of delicate symbiotic environments have precipitated the climate crises we now face. For at least the last 20 years,

the United Nations and climate activists have warned us that our window for reversing the devastating effects of climate change is becoming smaller and smaller. Although many nations have pledged to cut carbon emissions, these promises are no closer to becoming a reality.

The war between Ukraine and Russia has exacerbated international dependence on fossil fuels and Europe fears the prospects of a cold winter as Russia seeks to control natural gas supplies. African countries, on the other hand, argue that the terms of the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement to cut carbon emissions seek to punish developing nations. They have historically been among the lowest polluters, but just as they are looking to grow their economies, they are being pressured to reduce their reliance on coal and oil. In industrially advanced countries, the need for energy has grown like never before. Block chain technology, cryptocurrency mining, information storage, and other data-heavy activities consume enormous quantities of electricity. Our fast-paced lifestyles demand the production of disposable goods - from cheap fashion to takeaway meals - that pollute the environment. Our insatiable need for increasingly sophisticated technology drives the international trade of rare earth minerals which are mined in inhumane conditions in places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Our planet cannot continue to sustain our consumption. If we continue as we have, we can expect more severe climatic conditions, the destruction of the natural environment, and increasingly inhospitable conditions to sustain human life. The scarcity of resources will fuel local and global conflicts. Wealthy nations will seek to preserve their way of life; poorer nations will become increasingly desperate in their efforts to survive on meagre resources.

It is very easy to fall into despair. But this despair focuses only on our human frailty and tendency toward self-destruction. We can affect small degrees of change daily that will give the natural environment a chance to renew itself. Small efforts, like reducing our use of single use plastics, pressuring supermarkets to provide more sustainable packaging, using more energy-efficient appliances, and growing our own food – even if it is just a few herbs on the kitchen windowsill – make a difference. We do this because we are hopeful that there is still time for us to collectively reverse the damage that we have wrought upon our planet. But time is running out, **so we need to act now.**

PARISH MONTHLY CHARITY.



Following our International Fun Day and the positive response of the Ukrainian community to join with us we will support the local work of the Ukrainian community with €2,000 and we will forward another €1,000 to the SMA Fathers in Poland for their support of Ukrainian refugees. This will bring our total support for the cause of Ukraine to **€26,000.**

Other charities are making appeals to us for support and it is good that our parish is now appreciated for the support we have given to deserving causes over the years. In this regard we will focus on supporting the ***Mercy Hospital Cancer*** care project for September.

Contributions to the Mercy Cancer appeal can be offered in the boxes in the walls at the front of the church. People who might wish to make donations to Ukraine can do so in the box in the wall at the back of the church marked **"UKRAINE APPEAL".**

Ber Mulcahy will hold a short program on **Mindfulness for Beginners** at our Parish Centre on the following dates: Thursdays 15th, 22nd September, 6th, 13th October. To book a place call **086 784 0444.**

- ⇒ Fr. Michael would like to invite anyone who wishes to discuss and reflect upon the recent Pastoral letter of Bishop Fintan to meet in Room 10 (beside the sacristy) on Tuesday after the 10am Mass. In keeping with the Synodal expectations of Pope Francis it's important that we all share in the future direction of our parish.
- ⇒ Next weekend the parish will be visited by the Sisters from Belarus who have been with us for the past few years. They will bring various religious items for sale reflecting the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition.

The Annual memorial Mass remembering our deceased SMA Priests will take place here in Wilton on September 17th at 3 pm.

Bingo takes place every Monday night at 7.50 pm in the Parish Centre. Monday Bridge has also resumed at 7.30 pm.

Chocolate is the best investment. You buy 100 gm – you gain 2 kg!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

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

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

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 32: 7-11. 13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried, "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; or



TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When God wants to tell us what he's like, he tells the story of the Prodigal Son. It is a story of patience, forgiveness, love and acceptance. 11th September 2022



you, however, I will make a great nation.' But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50

R. I will leave this place and go to my Father.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R)
3. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R)

SECOND READING 1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other

people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 15:1-32 (Shorter form in italics *1-10*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me", he would say, "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.*

He also said, 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid

servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant, "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

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.

