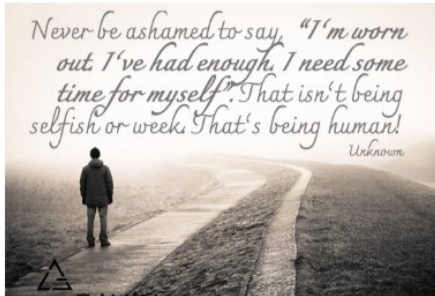




St. Joseph's Church Wilton

Telephone: 021- 4341362 Website: www.smawilton.ie email: stjosephschurchwilton@sma.ie



THE MESSAGE OF TODAY'S GOSPEL. (Mt 25:14-30)
In the parable the money is simply a symbol of the various gifts we receive from God, particularly the personal qualities and capacities with which he endows us. To what extent do I take all these gifts for granted, and indeed take myself for granted? How often do I really thank God for the gifts he has given me, both in my possessions and in my person. In this parable Matthew brings out just how forceful our Lord can be. We must not delude ourselves about that. We are responsible to the Lord for the proper use of the gifts he has given us.

MONTHLY CHARITY FOR NOVEMBER
Once again we are happy to respond to the appeal of the *Irish Pilgrimage Trust* for financial assistance from the parish. They bring children with additional needs to Lourdes each year and provide respite to the families for the period. Each group of volunteers must raise €18,000 in addition to paying their own way. What we can contribute during November will assist the group in meeting their financial cost. **To date we have collected €742.** Well done!

WE REMEMBER AND WE THANK GOD
November, a celebration of life
During the month of November, as a church, we traditionally call to mind our deceased family members and friends. This year we are asking people who wish to share with us the name of a loved one who is deceased that they might also share on our *"Remembrance Tree"* a positive word or at least a few words as to why you thank God for that person for being in your life. The hope is that our *"Remembrance Tree"* will be a source of strength for all of us, **and a celebration of life**, as we recall people who have shared our lives but who have now passed on to the Lord.

The current catastrophe unfolding in Gaza among the Palestinian people will require enormous financial support. As a parish we have not been found wanting in responding to any genuine appeal for financial assistance that has come our way. Until further notice we will suspend our assistance to Ukrainian refugees and divert any money we receive through a credible agency we identify that are helping humanitarian needs of the people in Gaza.



Donations can be placed in the money box in the wall at the back of the church

TAX BACK 2023
As another year is coming to an end, we wish to thank those who registered and joined in our **Tax Back Program**. What we receive from this program **does not cost anyone any additional expense**. Once your total donations to the church for the year of 2023 exceeds €250 we can claim back on your behalf from the Government a percentage of that money. Please note we can only submit the names of people whose contributions for 2023 have reached the figure of €250. If a person is uncertain of their status, please ask at the Mass Office to confirm your status. Only one person in the office is privy to this information and they will gladly supply the information. Income from **TAX BACK** gave us the freedom to undertake the major renovations of the lighting in our church.
Thanks to our parishioners who supported the project during 2023.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SERVICES WILTON
Saturday 18th - Eircom Memorial Mass 11.00 am
Monday 20th - Lough Flower Club Mass 10.00 am
Thursday 23rd - Garda Memorial Mass 7.00 pm
Saturday 25th - ESB Memorial Mass 11.00 am
Tuesday 28th - Lough Derg Memorial Mass 7.00 pm

In the Mass Office on sale is the latest encyclical of Pope Francis (*Laudate Deum*). It has been eight years since he wrote *Laudate Si*. He wishes to share with us his heartfelt concerns of our suffering planet. He feels our responses have not been adequate, while the world is collapsing and may be near breaking point. Copies are on sale **€5.99**

Early Christmas Present!
In considering what to buy for yourself, or a friend, for Christmas we are giving plenty advance warning of a popular option. The very popular book **Sacred Space "the Prayer Book 2024"** is now on sale in the Mass Office. It is being sold at a discounted rate of **€11**. It is being sponsored from the proceeds of our Parish Pastoral collections. Also on sale is the Advent and Christmas edition of Sacred Space (**€6 a copy**). It is a good companion to help a person through the important seasons of Advent and Christmas.



Fr. Michael presented the cheque for **€3,000** to Sr Ursula Sharpe MMM to forward it to Malawi for the purchase of an incubator. Also in picture is Chris Sheehan who initiated the project.

THINK ABOUT IT: Life is God's gift to us. What we do with life is our gift to God.

