



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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If you can sit quietly after difficult news, if in financial downturns you remain perfectly calm, if you can see your neighbors travel to fantastic places without a twinge of jealousy, if you can happily eat whatever is put on your plate, and fall asleep after a day of running around without a drink or a pill,... if you can always find contentment just where you are, you are probably a dog.
Jack Kornfield

LIGHT A CANDLE
Oscar Romero has a lovely prayer which tells us we can be sensible in how we can change and how we can grow.
*We plant seeds that will one day grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise
We can't do everything and there is a sense of liberation realizing that. This enables us to do something and do it very well
We may never see the end result but that's the difference between a Master Builder and a worker – we are workers not Master Builders; Ministers not Messiahs; we are prophets of a future not our own.*
That means we should try to do something even though we can't do everything. We are to light a candle rather than curse the darkness.

TAX BACK 2024
WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS
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 anybody any additional expense**. Once your total donations to the church for the year of 2024 exceeds €250, we can claim back on your behalf from the Government a percentage of that money.
At the back of the church are envelopes which a person can use to register to be part of the program for 2024. Take an envelope and fill out the enclosed form and return it to the parish office or just drop it in the basket during the Sunday collection at Mass.

St. Joseph SMA Wilton
Christmas arrangements 2023
Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve
Masses at 10.30am and 12 noon
Vigil Mass for Christmas: 8pm
Monday 25th December: Christmas Day
Masses at 10.30am and 12 noon
No evening Mass on Christmas Day
Tuesday 26th December
Mass at 12 noon

A Christmas gift for yourself or a friend!
The Christmas story needs some understanding and as a help the parish is offering a recently published book by one of our SMA priests. The book is entitled "The Bible: the story of God's Love for the World". It's a very clear presentation of the Christian story as seen through the eyes of the Bible. If people could read this book over the Christmas season you would be doing yourself a very special Christian favour. The book is on sale at €5 and proceeds of the sale go to our Christmas charity **ARC House Cancer Support**.
To date we have raised €1,022

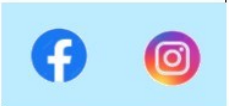
For our Christmas charity, the SMA Wilton are supporting **Cork ARC Cancer Support House** on Sarsfield's Road, Wilton. Cork ARC is a safe haven for people with cancer and their families where you can find information, practical help & emotional support. We are selling Christmas Lanterns & all money raised will go to Cork ARC.
Cost €15
Available after masses in the Sacristy or in the Parish Office.



Copies of our Parish Calendar 2024 are available for people to take at the entrance to the church. The cost of publishing is covered from our Parish Pastoral fund collections taken up in Mass.
Christmas dues envelopes with our Christmas card containing details and times of Christmas services are also available.

Dominican Café
Christmas hymns and children's songs at the Dominican Café at their church on Popes Quay on Sunday 17th December. All are welcome

Family of Parishes Reconciliation Service.
In an attempt to acknowledge the creation of the Family of Parishes we will join with our neighbouring parish of the Descent of the Holy Spirit for a Christmas Penance Service on **Sunday 17th at 5pm**.
As we come nearer Christmas, times for individual confession will be announced.



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 Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

17th. December 2023

The coming of Christ is a message of joy: a joy founded and rooted in God's love and care for his people, and his promise of an eternal companionship.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. Lk.1)

R. My soul rejoices in my God,

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R)**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R)**

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R)**

SECOND READING 1Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians
Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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 John 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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, 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 sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

