



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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The Gospel of Mark

Each of us is divided because of choices we have made and continue to make. We listen to God's authority in the Good News but we also listen to lots of minor powers: the media, politicians, economists, fads of culture, our peers, the call of greed and selfishness, to rampant disregard for the earth and other human beings, to the misuse of other persons. Perhaps Jesus is rebuking us today. Are we listening? How will we respond?

LENT IS JUST THREE WEEKS WAY

As usual, we are inviting people to bring withered palm branches to be burned to form the Ash for Ash Wednesday (**14th February**). The call to repentance is an individual call and an individual response.

However, the invitation to **REPENT** is being done in the presence of the community and with the ash formed from the withered palms of our community. This being so, it might just challenge us to reflect a bit more seriously as a community this year.

This year the parish is inviting members to join in a series of Lenten talks on the **Thursdays of Lent at 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Each session lasts less than 45 minutes. If we don't do the work of Lent, we come to Easter and nothing will have changed in our lives or in the life of our parish. The talks will revolve around the themes contained in the Lenten Prayer card prepared at the entrance to the church. Please take one as you come and go from the church.

As Parish Priest, I am seriously extending this invitation to all parishioners. It's time for those who are concerned about the future of our parish to take ownership of that future and show the need to work and grow together this Lent.

PARISH CHARITY FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

A request has been received from **GROW**, which is a community mental health organization. They provide a free support network for anyone who may be struggling with any aspect of their mental and emotional wellbeing. Weekly peer support meetings are held around Cork, including in our own Parish Centre.

To date we have collected €785. We have forwarded a cheque for the amount of €2,000 to **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED** as a contribution from the parish in support of the people of Gaza.

DEVELOPING A PERSONAL PRAYER LIFE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

The habit of prayer needs to be developed and the parish offers various opportunities for one to join with others in nurturing their prayer life.

There is the daily practice of Adoration, sitting quietly in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Opportunities for this practice are from Monday to Saturday 10.30 to 12.30 am and Wednesday 6 to 7 pm.

We offer an opportunity to sit in Silent Adoration on Wednesday in the sacristy at 7.30 pm for 30 minutes.

On Thursdays after morning Mass, a group meets in a room adjacent to the sacristy to participate in "Lectio Divina" – this is the practice of a period of prayerful reflection of the Gospel for the coming Sunday.

All these prayer opportunities are open to all, and all are welcome.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Church collections	87,904	84,534	45,484	55,661	66,607	78,638
Shrine (candles)	27,308	30,370	20,104	23,880	25,630	29,520
Charities	17,900	20,530	23,759	52,795	34,992	43,052

Our auditors have just concluded their annual report on our parish finances. It is good to reflect upon our current parish income and compare what has been and in particular to notice how we have bounced back after Covid.

We hear a lot of pessimism around church today but these figures reflect something very positive about our parish. Well done and thank you for your generosity to our parish. Money is not everything but it does help.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:

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

Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth:

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

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life:

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

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy
Moses said to the people: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly "Do not let me hear

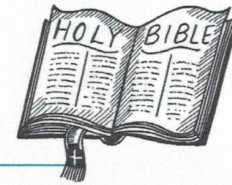


FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Schools Week

28th. January 2024

Jesus speaks the words of his Father today with an authority that made a deep impression on his listeners.



again" you said " the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. 94)

R. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R)

2. Come in; let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R)

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 7:32-35*

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians
I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has

to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mark 1:21-28*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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,

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

O Lord, we bring to your altar these offerings of our service: be pleased to receive them, we pray, and transform them into the Sacrament of our redemption.

Through Christ our Lord..

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase.

Through Christ our Lord.

