



# St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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## SUNDAY'S GOSPEL – Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

1. This marks a turning point in the life of Jesus, and of the disciples. It is the first time that his disciples recognise him as the Messiah. Recall turning points in your own journey of faith when you came to some deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

2. “Who do you say that I am?” This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us. In your heart of hearts, how do you answer this question today?

3. Jesus praises Peter for his faith and comments that this was not his own doing but a gift of God. Perhaps there have been times when you have been conscious of the gift nature of your faith. Be thankful for the gift you have received.

## Parish Charity for June – Focus Ireland

Our support to date stands at **€2,379**. Donations in support of Focus Ireland can be placed in the walls at the front of the church.

In this month's SMA Journal, we hear about the SMA General Assembly in Rome, the recent annual SMA pilgrimage to Knock, a project in Zambia and a new book by Fr. Kevin O' Gorman SMA. Click on the qr code to view the video.



Fr. Tim Cullinane SMA has produced another book containing over 200 inspirational short stories. It could be a nice present to give someone who might benefit from such inspirational promptings. The book is on sale for €10 in the Mass Office.

The following is a sample from the book:

### A Dead Parish

The parishioners of a certain parish complained to the Parish Priest that the parish is dead. One Sunday he brought a coffin into the church and placed it before the altar with the lid removed and said to the parishioners who had assembled, “if the parish is dead let us give it a decent burial but before we do so, let us pay our last respects to the remains.” He invited the congregation to come up and look at the corpse. He had placed a large mirror inside the coffin and when they came up individually to pay their respects each one saw an image of himself or herself in the mirror. They got the message: **“it is we who are dead not the church”**

**CHRISTIANITY IS  
BEYOND COMING  
TO CHURCH.  
IT IS THE ABILITY  
TO REPRESENT  
CHRIST WHERE  
EVER YOU ARE.**

The Living Faith publication for July, August, September is now available in the Mass Office at the usual price of €1.



Follow us on  
social media

## EVENING MASS DURING THE SUMMER

During the summer months, due to the shortage of priests, it will not be possible to have mass each evening.

Until further notice evening Mass (5.35 pm) will only be available on Wed and Fri.

On the other evenings rosary will be recited at the usual times and exposition of the Blessed will be available until 6.30pm.

## SMA Mass Office

We now stock a large range of books, christening candles, rosary beads and grave ornaments.

## Supporting Sudan:

More than 12.4 million people have been forced from their homes across Sudan – including over 3.3 million refugees who have fled neighbouring countries – as two years of civil war fuel famine, disease outbreaks and the collapse of the health system.

More than half the population – around 25 million people – require humanitarian assistance and protection, but funding shortfalls and insecurity have left vast swaths of the country beyond reach.

*We have received word that the Irish Sisters working in Southern Sudan are grateful for the support of **€2,000** that we have forwarded to them for their work in Sudan. On the Notice Board at the back of the church is a display which includes a letter of appreciation from the Sisters and an account of their work as well as various pictures showing some of the people and circumstances in which they work.*

*We pray for the people of Gaza that they will soon be able to receive the much-needed assistance denied to them.*



### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

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

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

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

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

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

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son...

### ✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

#### FIRST READING Acts 12:1 - 11

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each



## SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL, APOSTLES

The Lord has set us firm within his Church, which he built upon the rock of Saint Peter's faith. The Lord has given us knowledge of the faith through the labours and preaching of Saint Paul. May their example inspire us to lead others to Christ by the way we live our lives.

29th June 2025

to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals'. After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me'. Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true', he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me'.

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (P.S. 33:2-9)

**R. From all my terrors the Lord set me free.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad (R)
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. (R)
3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. (R)
4. The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who revere him, to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. (R)

### SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

*A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.*

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13-19

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

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets'. 'But you', he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.'

Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

*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 ✠

#### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrificial gift that we present to your name for consecration, and may their intercession make us devoted to you in celebration of the sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

**And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.**

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, O Lord, who have been renewed by this Sacrament, so to live in the Church, that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread and in the teaching of the Apostles, we may be one heart and one soul, made steadfast in your love. Through Christ our Lord.

