



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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Why are we focusing on Christian persecution for our Christmas charity?

The sad reality that we are highlighting with our focus on Red Wednesday and the concern of the "Aid to Church in Need" is for persecuted Christians around the world. Take time to read the report on persecuted Christians compiled by ACN at the back of the church or in the parish centre. This reality was highlighted for us in the recent attack on the parish of one of our Irish SMA Fathers in Nigeria. To further highlight the cause, we have received a video of an actual attack on a church in Nigeria. Scan the QR code below to view the shocking raid on a church community in Nigeria.

What we collect during our Christmas charity appeal, we will give to ACN who assist communities around the world who are suffering persecution.



*"God is the best listener;
you don't need to shout or
cry because He hears even the very
silent prayer of a very sincere heart."*

- Pastor John Hagee

The Gospel.

First Sunday of Advent- He comes in a hidden way.

The Gospel tells us that the Christian community has to stay awake and watch, because the coming of Jesus is often hidden from the world. Noah's generation was caught in the flood, not because they were robbing banks or making war. No, their problem was that they were so involved in taking care of themselves (eating and drinking, that they failed to get involved in God's saving mission – feeding the hungry, liberating the oppressed.

What can we do to stay awake today?

TAX BACK 2026.

If you have generously given €250 or more to our parish in any one calendar year, you could make your donation work even harder by letting the Parish claim some of the tax that you have already paid to Revenue.

How it works: The tax back scheme allows our Parish to claim more than 40% in tax back on a year's donations totaling over €250, at no cost to you. All you need to do is sign up; use the envelopes the parish provides when you come to church. We will then contact you at the end of the year with a simple form to be signed and returned to the parish office.

Do you qualify? If you pay any Irish tax, either PAYE or self-assessed, and you live in Ireland, then you probably do. It doesn't matter if you are PAYE or self-assessed for us to be able to claim back your tax paid. And remember, that self-assessed taxpayers can no longer claim their own tax back on charitable donations – only the charity can make this claim from Revenue, and the money will be used to support the parish.

If you are interested, complete the form which is inside the box of envelopes and drop it into one of the baskets during collection time or drop it into the sacristy.

Fundraiser for Breakthrough Cancer.

Can you spare an hour or two to support Breakthrough Cancer Research? On Friday, 12th December, the charity will hold its annual Christmas Bag Packing Fundraiser in Dunnes Stores, Bandon Road, and they're looking for volunteers to help out between 3:30pm and 6:00pm. If you're available and would like to get involved, please contact Edel from Breakthrough Cancer Research at edel@breakcancer.ie or 021 422 6655.

ADVENT RENEWAL PROGRAM.

In the hope of encouraging greater participation by members of the parish in some form of renewal for Christmas, the Advent Day of Prayer has been postponed and we offer a general invitation to all to join in our "Take a Minute" exercise. This exercise requires people to take just one minute twice a day to reflect upon the content of the card provided by the parish. Please take one as you leave the church.

This exercise will help people who wish to better prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Christmas.

Parish Charity for November.

For the month of November we will support **The Rise and Shine Trust** (formally the Irish Pilgrimage Trust). The group raises funds to sponsor young people to go to Lourdes from Cork city and county each year. Each organising group is tasked with raising €14,500 to pay for the young people. Let's see what we can do to help them during the month of November. To date we have raised €1,033.

SMA Calendar 2026.

The SMA Calendar for 2026 is now on sale in the Mass Office. €3 per copy.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put
to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over
me; and let none who hope in you be put
to shame.

GREETING

In the name of the Father Amen.
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
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,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

(The Gloria is omitted during Advent)

OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand, they may
be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Isaiah 2: 1 - 5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning
Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the
Temple of the Lord shall tower above the
mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it;
and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to

the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'
He will wield authority over the nations



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a reminder that our life on earth is a
preparation for the life of eternity in heaven; and that
we wait for the coming of Christ to take us home.

30th November 2025



and adjudicate between many peoples; will
hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 121: 1-2.4-9

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's house.'

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R)**

2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **(R)**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' **(R)**

4. For love of my brethren and friends

I say: **'Peace upon you!'**
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. **(R)**

SECOND READING Romans 13:11 - 14

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake
up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was
when we were converted. The night is almost
over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all
the things we prefer to do under the cover of
the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the
light. Let us live decently as people do in the
daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or
licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy.
Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us
your saving help. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 24:37 - 44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's
day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes.
For in those days before the Flood people were
eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands,
right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and
they suspected nothing till the Flood came and
swept all away. It will be like this when the Son
of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one
is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone
grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the
day when your master is coming. You may be
quite sure of this that if the householder had
known at what time of the night the burglar
would come, he would have stayed awake
and would not have allowed anyone to break
through the wall of his house. Therefore, you
too must stand ready because the Son of Man
is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we
make, gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate
devoutly here below gain for us the prize of
eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.....

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should
enter under my roof, but only say the
word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord will bestow his
bounty, and our earth shall
yield its increase.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated, profit us,
we pray, for even now, as we walk amid
passing things, you teach us by them to love
the things of heaven and hold fast to what
endures. Through Christ our Lord.

