



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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



New Year Eve Prayer

God our Father,
We give thanks for all that has been
and, trustfully, we place the past into
your hands. We ask you to inspire us in
the year ahead to seek and fulfill your
will. May we truly look on each new day
as the start of the rest of our lives.
Enable us, with the power of your Spirit,
to remain positive and confident, and
live fully and joyfully with those people
you have placed into our lives. Lead us
to bring out the best in one another that
we may all grow as the people
you call us to be.
In Jesus' name
I pray, Amen.

The highlight is the Christmas program has been the support we are offering people who are being persecuted for their faith in our world. We are doing this through "Aid to the Church in Need". We are asking people to further decorate the tree with red ribbons (great to see we have only a few left!) and offer a donation which forms part of our Christmas support for ACN and persecuted Christians throughout the world. Our collection will conclude next week as we come to the end of the Christmas season.

To date our collection for Aid to the Church in Need amounts to €4,546.

ALPHA Christian Formation Program.

Curraheen Parish is hosting the Alpha program starting on the 22nd of January in their church 7.30 pm to 9 pm over 10 weeks. People wishing to attend can ring the parish office on 087 7160918 to register. This is an adult faith formation program.

Feast of the Epiphany: "A light for the Gentiles".

In today's Gospel we hear Matthew's classic story of the arrival of strangers in Jerusalem. They know something the locals do not; that the king of the Jews has been born in the neighborhood of Jerusalem. The presence of the strangers, who are privy to this special knowledge, worried King Herod, the chief priests, and the whole of Jerusalem. They are not disposed to act on what has been revealed.

By contrast, the pagan strangers have gone as far as they can in following the star, and are willing to be instructed in a scripture that is foreign to them. They act on what has been given to them. They offer homage to the child, offer him their gifts, and then make their own way back to their country.

Most of us travel to God by the routes that have been mapped out by generations of faithful Christians, but we should be hesitant to condemn those who take other routes in the search for the same God. If we are all exploring God, if we are journeying in faith and love, then we can teach each other something new about the Almighty. We may seem strange to each other, but what if the Stranger is the one who has the address of God?

Note that at the end of the story; we are told they went back by a different route. This is a way of saying to the listener that we too must go back by a different route after we celebrate Christmas. Are we? Am I?

Thinking of the Wise men and how they were keen to be instructed in the Gospel message, we too should be keen to be instructed in our faith. It's good to acknowledge the effort made by people in the parish to purchase and read some of the many spiritual books we recycle for sale at the back of the church. Over the months many good spiritual books have been offered to the parish and taken, if people have read such and are happy to pass them on we would be grateful if we could once again recycle them for other people to read.

Parish Tax Back program for 2026

If you generously give €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've 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 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're PAYE or self-assessed for us to be able to claim back your tax paid. And remember that self-assessed tax payers 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 can participate, complete the form in one of the numbered boxes at the back of the church, drop the form into one of the baskets during collection at Mass, or drop it into the sacristy. Start using the envelopes and your details will be recorded and you will be kept abreast of developments necessary. **Your participation does make a difference to our Parish Finances.**

Christmas Dues envelopes are available at the Church entrance. This is an opportunity for people to make a personal donation to the parish for Christmas.

Also available at the entrances is our 2026 Parish Calendar. Feel to take one, the calendar is sponsored from funds taken up during the year from our Parish Pastoral fund collections.

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

During the coming week we will follow the usual Mass schedule; Mass at 10 am and 5.35 pm.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: 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

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2.8-12

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus
Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself.
She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One;
'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jesus is the One sent by God who speaks to us about the wisdom and truth of God. By accepting him we too become children of God and are filled with grace and truth.

4th January 2026



He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance."
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain.
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion.
In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.
I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.147:12-15.19-20

**R. The Word was made flesh,
and lived among us.**

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. **(R)**
2. He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. **(R)**
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. **(R)**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18

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

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit

of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John1:1-18 (or *1:1-5.9-14*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

(shorter version in italics)

** In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.**

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.

**The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh,
or will of man but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us, and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son
of the Father, full of grace and truth.**
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:



'This is the one of whom I said :
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us,
received - yes, grace in return for grace, since,
though the Law was given through Moses, grace
and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's
heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and life everlasting. **Amen.**

✠ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ✠

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make
on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,
for by it you show us the way of truth
and promise the life of the heavenly
Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**To all who would accept him, he gave the
power to become children of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, we humbly ask you, that,
through the working of this mystery, our
offences may be
cleansed and
our just desires
fulfilled.

Through Christ
our Lord.

