



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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Parish Charity for November.

For the month of November, we supported The Rise and Shine Trust (formerly the Irish Pilgrimage Trust). This weekend, a cheque for €1,500 will be presented to a representative of the group. Once again, we would like to thank the parish for their generous support. We also thank those who supported the carol concert in support of Field of Dreams last Friday.

TAX BACK 2026.

If you've 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'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 totalling 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're 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 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.**

The Gospel.

Second Sunday of Advent- Prepare a way for the Lord. Advent is a time when the Church prepares to celebrate the Nativity – the birth of Jesus. Matthew is more aware than Mark that baptism can become another dead ritual. Individual Christians today need support from other Christians, or from the parish they belong to, to help them. It's so easy to be hijacked by the commercialism of the modern world. Can the Christian community become hardened to the word of Jesus?

Parish Adult Faith Formation Programme

Putting the Adult Christ Back into Christmas



The Angel Gabriel brings news to Mary

"Christmas is for kids" they say...

At Christmas, we recall a very significant moment in our story. Popular culture has trivialised the meaning of Christmas. Our parish is offering an opportunity for adults to join with us in coming to a deeper and biblical understanding of the Christmas story.



Mary travels to Bethlehem on a donkey

People who wish to register for this program can do so at the altar in the church. Those who join will be provided with a USB and we ask them to listen and reflect upon the Christmas story by a renowned Catholic theologian. The USB is free, paid out of parish PPN collections.

During Advent, we will offer a few opportunities for people to come and share with us their understanding of what is on the USB. As adults, let's think as adults about what Christmas means to us.



Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem



An angel appears to shepherds



The shepherds visit the baby Jesus



The three wise men follow the star to find Jesus



The wise men bring gifts to the baby Jesus

SMA Calendar 2026.

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

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 3:30p.m. and 6:00p.m. 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.

Christmas Dues.

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 free to take one. The calendar is sponsored from funds taken up during the year from our parish pastoral fund collections. Also available is our Christmas card with details of times and services in our church for the Christmas period.

Christmas Charity.

We are focusing on Christian persecution in the world for our Christmas charity.

With our focus on Red Wednesday and the work of *Aid to the Church in Need*, we highlight the sad reality faced by 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. The response of people to take our Red Ribbons as a gesture of solidarity with persecuted Christians is very positive.

What we collect during our Christmas Charity appeal will be given to ACN who assist communities around the world who are suffering persecution. We begin our collection with €450.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his
voice heard in the joy of your heart.

GREETING

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

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

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner:

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

You bring light to those in darkness:

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

May almighty God have mercy..... **Amen.**

(The Gloria is omitted during Advent)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Isaiah 11: 1 - 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor
of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends their young
lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The message of repentance during this season of Advent is a call to each one of us to look deeply into our lives, to renew and deepen our relationship with God.

into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17

**R. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R)**
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R)**
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **(R)**

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-9

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

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give

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glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way
for the Lord, make his paths
straight, and all mankind shall
see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 3: 1 - 12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and, thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out."

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble
prayers and offerings, and, since we have
no merits to plead our cause, come, we
pray, to our rescue with the protection of
your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights, and behold the joy which comes
to you from God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual
nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O
Lord, that, through our partaking in this
mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely
the things of earth and hold firm to the
things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

