



# St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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## The Rise and Shine Trust.

**Picture:** Fr. Michael presenting a cheque for €1,500 to representatives of "The Rise and Shine Trust". This charity sponsors children with special needs for a trip to Lourdes every Easter. Thank you to all of those who donated.

## Putting the Adult Christ Back into Christmas.

The response to our "Putting the Adult Christ Back into Christmas" programme was very encouraging. Additional USB's have been prepared and can be collected.

## 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 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'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.

**Third Sunday of Advent** - "Go back and tell John what you hear and see."

John the Baptist exemplified how we can be imprisoned in our own perception of God's plan, our own schemes, our own memory of the golden past. We may be resisting the new order. The presence of the Spirit will be shown in new life, fresh vitality and growth.

Advent is a time when the Church prepares to celebrate the Nativity – the birth of Jesus. 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. But where is the presence of the Spirit? Can the Christian community become hardened to the word of Jesus?

## SMA Mass Office.

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

## Christmas Family of Parishes Confessions.

Christmas Family of Parishes Confessions will be held in the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 5pm.

## SMA Calendar 2026.

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

## 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.

**Why are we focusing on Christian persecution in the world for our Christmas charity?**

**REASONS FOR SUPPORTING AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED:**

**Nigeria:**

Two seminarians kidnapped in southern Nigeria in July were released after a third died while being held hostage.

**Republic of Congo:**

Terrorists killed 20 people in a hospital run by Catholic Sisters. The attackers killed people in and around the hospital and set it on fire.

**Bangladesh:**

Bangladeshi Christians protested violence against their community after three separate bombs targeted prominent Catholic institutions in the past six weeks.

What we collect during our Christmas Charity appeal we will give to ACN who assist persecuted Christian communities around the world. To date our collection amounts to €1,370.



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

## GREETING

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

## PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have  
failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
(The Gloria is omitted during Advent)

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully  
await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable  
us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a  
salvation and to celebrate them always with  
solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through  
our Lord Jesus Christ, .....

## ✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

### FIRST READING Isaiah 35: 1 - 6.10

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let  
the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.  
Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

14th December 2025

The coming of Christ is a message of joy: a joy founded  
and rooted in God's love and care for his people, and  
his promise of an eternal companionship.



Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the  
ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.  
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces; joy and  
gladness will go with them,  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 145: 6 -10

**R. Come, Lord, and save us.  
or Alleluia!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

### SECOND READING James 5: 7 - 10

*A reading from the letter of St. James*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.  
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for  
the precious fruit of the ground until it has had  
the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too  
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because  
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make  
complaints against one another, brothers, so as  
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the  
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.  
For your example, brothers, in submitting with  
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the  
name of the Lord.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord has been  
given to me. He has sent me to**



**bring good news to the poor. Alleluia !**

### GOSPEL Matthew 11: 2 -11

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*  
John in his prison had heard what Christ was  
doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are  
you the one who is to come, or have we got to  
wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go  
back and tell John what you hear and see; the  
blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are  
cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are  
raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed  
to the poor; and happy is the man who does not  
lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus  
began to talk to the people about John: 'What  
did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed  
swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you  
go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh  
no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found  
in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To  
see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more  
than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture  
says: Look, I am going to send my messenger  
before you; he will prepare your way before  
you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born  
of women, a greater than John the Baptist has  
never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of  
heaven is greater than he is.'

*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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord,  
we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to  
complete what was begun in sacred mystery  
and powerfully accomplish for us your  
saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

### EUCHARISTIC 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.**

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

**When we eat this Bread and drink this  
Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

### 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

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and  
do not fear. Behold, our God will come,  
and he will save us.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine  
sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and  
prepare us for the coming feasts.  
Through Christ our Lord.