



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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Aid to the Church in Need.

We thank those people who have helped to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. The highlight is the Christmas tree. We are asking people to further decorate the tree with red ribbons and offer a donation which forms part of our Christmas support for ACN and persecuted Christians throughout the world. To date our collection for Aid to the Church in Need amounts to €2,038.

A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM GAZA.

The Catholic parish in Gaza is currently celebrating Advent during an unstable ceasefire. From the heart of the devastated city, Fr Gabriel Romanelli of the Holy Family Parish describes a disastrous sanitary situation and a day-to-day life marked by a scarcity of means for rebuilding. The parish priest calls on the international community to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

Christmas is drawing near, but preparations are taking place in an atmosphere of disquiet. "The world should know that there are over two million people here who have nothing and need everything."

Over the past years, and even before the war, the Latin Patriarchs have always made sure to be close to the Catholic community in Gaza, celebrating Christmas with the Holy Family Parish in the days preceding the 25th of December. Will this be possible this year in the context of the ceasefire? For now, the only thing they are sure of is that the option of exit permits that allowed some Gazan Christians to leave the territory to celebrate Christmas with their families is not even on the table.

Please pray for the small Catholic community in Gaza. Just like they pray for us every night in Holy Family Parish.

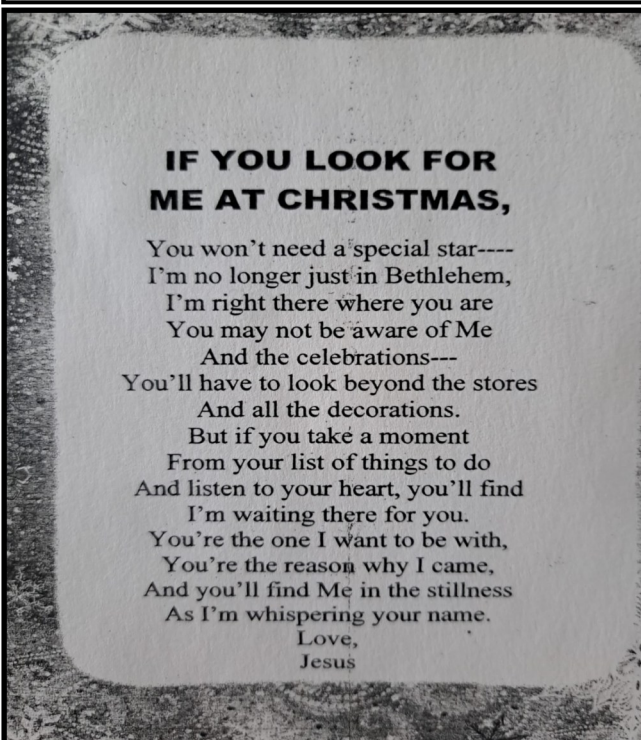
The Gospel.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - "He will save his people from their sins".

The more familiar story of the annunciation is found in Luke's gospel. But the story in today's mass is Matthew's account of the message given to Joseph in a dream. Matthew is writing some forty years after the resurrection, and he is anxious to show that Jesus was the Son of God at his conception. That is why the virginity of Mary is so important to who Jesus really is.

Mass Times.

Around the church are cards giving the times of mass in our church over the Christmas period. Please take one and share the information.



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 the 21st of December at 5p.m.

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 MASS TIMES.

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve

Morning Service 10.00 am

Christmas Eve Mass: 8.00 pm

Thursday 25th Christmas Day

Masses at 10.30 am and 12 noon

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

Friday 26th December

Mass at 12 noon

Wilton Knitting Group.

The Wilton Knitting Group have been creating knitted hearts and donating them to the Mercy Hospital in Cork. These hearts have provided great comfort to patients and their families. Edel O'Neill, End of Life Coordinator at the Mercy Hospital Cork, has sent a heartfelt message of thanks to the ladies of the Wilton Knitting Group for their time, kindness, and generosity. You can listen to her thank you message by scanning the QR code.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savio ur.

GREETING

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

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

You came to call sinners:

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

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

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

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

(The Gloria is omitted during Advent)

OPENING PRAYER

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 7: 10 -14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23: 1 - 6

R. Let the Lord enter! He is the King of



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The birth of Christ is almost upon us now. We are reminded in Isaiah's prophecy of the long-awaited Emmanuel – God in our midst. Like Joseph, we need to make room for Jesus to enter our lives and our world.

21st December 2025



glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R)

SECOND READING Romans 1: 1-7

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

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 1: 18 - 24



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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 Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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.

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

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

