



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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WANT TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS?

FEED THE HUNGRY,
CLOTHE THE NAKED,
FORGIVE THE GUILTY.

WELCOME THE STRANGER
AND THE UNWANTED CHILD,
CARE FOR THE ILL,
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.

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 €4,108.

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.

The Gospel.

Feast of the Holy Family: "Take the child and his mother and escape into Egypt".

Matthew says the Holy Family has to take refuge in Egypt. There were colonies of Jews in every Egyptian city. But we must not forget that the Jews were enslaved in Egypt a thousand years earlier. Matthew seems to have been trying to assure his Jewish readers that Jesus relived the history of the Jewish people who took refuge in Egypt (from the famine) and escaped from the slavery inflicted on them in Egypt. Matthew wants to say that Jesus is the true Israel, "I called my Son out of Egypt".

The lesson that we learn here is that the Holy Family does not live in a golden cage. They have to deal with the insecurity of refugees and the danger of being caught by Herod. God's plans are always – even for Joseph and Mary – very mysterious. Our Christmas charity is an opportunity for our parish to identify in a small way with the plight of so many Christians around the world who are suffering persecution for their faith.

Mass Times.

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

SMA Journal December 2025.

In this SMA Journal for December 2025, we hear from Kenya about the recent celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the SMA House of Formation in Nairobi, and a report from Fr Thierry Aimade SMA, a priest from the Republic of Benin, who is now working with us here in Ireland as the APP in the SMA Parish in Wilton, Cork. Then we hear about some Irish traditions in the Christmas season and finish off with a look back at SMA activities in 2025. Scan the QR code to view the Journal.



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 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.

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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

GREETING

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
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 on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them in
practising the virtues of family life and in the
bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your
house, delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for
them; to pray for healing of divisions and bitterness. We pray
that we may grow in respect and love for our extended family
throughout the world.
28th December 2025

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children, and
upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for
his sins, he who honours his mother is like
someone amassing a fortune. Whoever
respects his father will be happy with children
of his own, he shall be heard on the day when
he prays. Long life comes to him who honours
his father, he who sets his mother at ease is
showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support
your father in his old age, do not grieve him
during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show
him sympathy, do not despise him in your health
and strength; for kindness to a father shall not
be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your
sins.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 127: 1 - 5

**R. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life. (R)

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-17 (Shorter form)

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians
You are God's chosen race, his saints; he
loves you and you should be clothed in
sincere compassion, in kindness and humility,
gentleness and patience. Bear with one
another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel
begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you
must do the same. Over all these clothes, to
keep them together and complete them, put on
love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your

hearts, because it is for this that
you were called together as parts of one body.
Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness,
find a home with you. Teach each other, and
advise each other, in all wisdom.

With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and
hymns and inspired songs to God; and never
say or do anything except in the name of the
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
through him.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ
reign in your hearts; let the message of
Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 2: 13-15.19-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
After the wise men had left, the angel of the
Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
'Get up, take the child and his mother with you,
and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell
you, because Herod intends to search for the
child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up
and, taking the child and his mother with him,
left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until
Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord
had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord
appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and
said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with
you and go back to the land of Israel, for those
who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph
got up and, taking the child and his mother with
him, went back to the land of Israel. But when
he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his
father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid
to go there, and being warned in a dream he
left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in
a town called Nazareth. In this way the words
spoken through the prophets were
to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

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 ✠

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

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of
conciliation, humbly asking that, through the
intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and
Saint Joseph, you may establish our families
firmly in your grace and your peace.

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.**

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

**Our God has appeared on the earth, and
lived among us.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly
Sacrament, most merciful
Father, to imitate constantly
the example of the Holy
Family, so that, after the trials
of this world, we may share
their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.

