



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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



Figures for our Webcam for 2025.

The number of viewers on our webcam for 2025 was **77,389**. This number of viewers represents people from 83 countries. This figure represents that at least 210 people a day are joining us for prayer and spiritual nourishment. Sometimes we might be in church and not be conscious of the people around us. These figures might be a wake-up call to encourage us all to participate more fully when we realize that so many people are coming to us for various reasons for their spiritual nourishment from far and wide. During Covid the webcam was a great support for people but now post Covid for so many people to be faithful to us throughout the year, suggests that we must be doing something right!

Tax Back 2026 Program.

We thank our parishioners who are participating in our Tax Back 2026 program. All the indications show that this year will be another positive year for the parish in terms of the income we will receive back from Revenue. Thank you to those members who are involved. New members who have joined our parish might not be conscious of the value to our parish of this program. All that is required is for a person to be paying tax, and during the course of the year if your contributions to the church exceeds **€250 we can submit your name to revenue and the parish will receive €112** from the Government, **at no cost to yourself**. This is a very important source of income for parishes and is deeply appreciated. People who can join can speak with Fr. Michael or speak to the people in the Mass Office during the week. People who are paying tax and are regular attendees of our church who wish to join can do so by taking a box of envelopes from the back of the church and filling out the form contained in the box and returning it to the sacristy when convenient.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The feast of the Baptism of Jesus concludes the Church's Christmas season. We have recently celebrated the journey of the wise men from the East to the newborn son of Mary and Joseph. However, with today's feast the focus is very much on the adult Jesus. After spending about 30 years in the village of Nazareth, Jesus now journeys south to the wilderness of Judea to be baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Just a little over two weeks ago, on Christmas day, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, the beginning of his earthly life. Today we celebrate a beginning in Jesus' adult life, the beginning of his public ministry. The baptism of Jesus is important to us because this was the moment when he began his ministry that would eventually result in the formation of the community of his followers, the Church, and in our baptism into that community.

Developing a Personal Prayer Life is Your Responsibility.

The habit of prayer needs to be developed and the parish offers various opportunities for one to join with others in nurturing their prayer life. There is the daily practice of Adoration, sitting quietly in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Opportunities for this practice are from Monday to Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 a.m. and Wednesday 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. People wishing to join in silent (Contemplative) prayer in our parish have two opportunities each week. There are meetings on Tuesday morning, 10.45 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. Meeting in Room 9 bedside the sacristy, and Wednesday evenings 7.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in Room 12 in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to attend. On Thursdays after morning Mass, a group meets in a room, adjacent to the sacristy to participate in "Lectio Divina" – this is the practice of a period of prayerful reflection of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. All these prayer opportunities are open to all, and all are welcome.

Aid to the Church in Need.

The highlight of 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". Our collection will conclude this week as we come to the end of the Christmas season. To date our collection for Aid to the Church in Need amounts to €5,134.

As We Shine Our Light, May We Light the Way for Others.

As we celebrate the new year,
may we discover within ourselves
a deep and lasting sense of peace, love and belonging.
May we learn to pause, to listen inwardly,
and to meet both joy and uncertainty with gentleness.
In opening our hearts and minds,
may compassion soften our judgements,
and curiosity take the place of fear.
May this inner openness ripple outward,
shaping the way we speak, the way we listen,
the way we care for one another.
In the simple, often unseen moments,
may we choose kindness, patience and understanding.
As we shine our light, may we light the way for others.
May our lives become a shining presence,
steady, sincere, and alive,
offering a living celebration of peace and love,
to all we encounter, in the year ahead.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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 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, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is the feast of Jesus receiving from his Father the calling and mission which he followed through in his life, death and resurrection. We too are baptised into a similar relationship with God in Christ.

11th January 2026

my chosen one in whom my soul delights.

I have endowed him with my spirit

that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,

or make his voice heard in the streets.

He does not break the crushed reed,

nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;

he will neither waver, nor be crushed

until true justice is established on earth,

for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause

of right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the people

and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the

blind, to free captives from prison, and those

who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 28:1 - 4. 9 - 10.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R)

2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R)

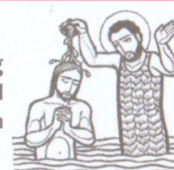
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R)

SECOND READING Acts 10: 34 - 38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard



about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3: 13 - 17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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 ✠

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

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.....

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,

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 the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that,
faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
May the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

