



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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The Gospel.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A) "Jesus teaches us that religious laws are pointers to inner integrity".

Jesus uses the formula: "You have heard it said But I say to you". His interpretation is really radical. He demands much more than mere external conformity. While the Law bans murder, Jesus forbids anger and even insults. The four examples in our Gospel demonstrate the radical nature of Jesus' reinterpretation of the law. Jesus demands that his disciples go **DEEPER**, are we ready to go deeper for Lent?

How does Christian morality surpass the morality of the Scribes and Pharisees?

Lent Support For Trócaire.

During Lent we will join all churches in Ireland in supporting Trócaire. Each year, the response of our members in supporting Trócaire is fantastic. Again, the method of support is for each family to take a Trócaire envelope which contains a Trócaire money box. People are asked to encourage family members and friends, or even take them to your place of work, and encourage work mates to support the cause of Trócaire. At the end of Lent, we ask that these boxes be returned. In addition to this, we will also be happy for donations that we receive in the regular charity boxes at the front of the church.

Lent Begins On Wednesday February 18th.

It's hoped that each one of us has reflected upon the invitation to **GO Deeper** as we enter the Season of Lent. Our gospel today makes it clear that this is the call of Jesus to his disciples. As a gesture of our willingness to challenge ourselves to **"Repent"** this Lenten Season, we ask people to bring a withered palm branch as a personal token to be burnt, and be part of the Community Ash for our ceremony of the Ash on Ash Wednesday. Don't leave it to other people to provide for your Ash on the day!

New Parish Initiative For Prayer.

The recent suggestion of inviting people to name their prayer petitions and write them in the book in the middle of the church is proving to be an eye opener to the plight of people's concerns. All intentions included will be remembered at each Mass in the parish. Also, people are welcome to read the prayer intentions. Taking time to do so, just might help to put our own prayer petitions into perspective.

The Bits And Pieces Of Everyday.

Fr. Eddie Deeney has been an SMA priest for 60 years. In his book of memories, he shares some of his missionary experience and draws meaningful lessons for everyday life from them. Copies of the book are on sale in the Mass Office for €10. Proceeds from the sale will go towards the "Tanga Project" for Albino children in Tanzania.

SMA Journal Special Edition.

Welcome to this special edition of the SMA Journal featuring the late Seán Ó Sé who died on the 13th of January 2026. In an interview recorded over a year ago in SMA House Wilton, Cork, Seán Ó Sé talks about his own connection with the SMA. May he rest in peace. Scan the QR code to view the interview.



Children's
St. Valentine's Day Party

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

10:00 Mass St. Joseph's Church, Wilton Rd, Cork
10:30 - 12:30 Party SMA Parish Centre, Wilton, Cork
*Adoration & Confession available after Mass

JOIN US FOR:
CRAFTS,
GAMES,
SWEETS AND
MORE!

RSVP:



**Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times

Sharing in the Masses and prayers of the members of the Society of African Missions is a meaningful way to remember a deceased loved one, to celebrate an occasion or to let family or friends know that they are in your thoughts and prayers.

**Cards are now available online
at the SMA website www.sma.ie**

Click on **ORDER CARDS**, choose the ones you want and they will be posted to you promptly.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

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

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

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

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

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

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Day of Prayer for Temperance) 15th February 2026

The gospel of Christ will often force difficult decisions in our lives. The gospel offers a fullness of life which in turn offers us joy and a meaning of life which promises a hope and love that is eternal.

eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34

R. They are happy who follow God's law!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **(R)**

2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **(R)**

3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **(R)**

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **(R)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2: 6 - 10

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of

eternal life. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 17 - 37 (or *5:20-22.27-28.33-34.37) (Shorter form in italics)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

**For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.*

*'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;** if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause



you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. **All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.**

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 EUCHARIST ✠

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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