



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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The Gospel.

First Sunday of Lent (Cycle A) God's presence in testing times.

When Jesus gave his disciples, and all of us, the prayer that became known as the Lord's Prayer, it included the petition, "Lead us not into temptation". Jesus seems to have been aware that just as he was tempted in a very fundamental way, so too would his followers be tempted. This Gospel reading is placed at the very beginning of Lent because Lent is a season when we are invited to become aware of the reality of temptation in our lives. The writer of the story understood the subtle nature of temptation, how what is good and pleasing has great power to lead us astray. The power of goodness or beauty or knowledge is such that we can be tempted to pursue them in a selfish way, in a way that we seek to control them for our own powerful advantage.

SMA Journal February 2026.

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the SMA Journal. We celebrate the 90th Birthday of Fr Eddie Deeney SMA and also the launch of his latest book. In a piece prepared by the SMA Wilton Parish, Folklore Group, we hear about the Feast Days of Saints in the February calendar. In the final part of this month's journal, we remember Fr Michael McGrath SMA who died recently and hear of how he dedicated most of his 61 years of missionary life to the training of Catechists. Scan the QR code to view.



The Importance of Small Steps.

Scan the QR code to learn a very important lesson for spiritual life and for life itself!



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. So far, our contributions amount to €525.

The Bits And Pieces Of Everyday.

Fr. Eddie Deeney has been an SMA priest for 60 years. In his book of memories, *The Bits And Pieces Of Everyday*, 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.

Tax Back 2026 Program.

We thank our parishioners who are participating in our Tax Back 2026 program. Any person wishing to join can take a box of envelopes from the table at the back of the church. 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.** There are leaflets on the table giving more specific details about what is involved and the benefit to the church.

ST JOSEPH'S SMA PARISH WILTON

5 WEEK LENTEN PRAYER JOURNEY



WEDNESDAYS 7PM TO 7.45PM

Feb 25th - March 25th

JOURNEY TO THE DESERT

Wednesday, February 25 2026

JOURNEY TO THE MOUNTAIN

Wednesday, March 4 2026

JOURNEY TO THE WELL

Wednesday, March 11 2026

JOURNEY TO THE LIGHT

Wednesday, March 18 2026

JOURNEY TO THE NEW LIFE

Wednesday, March 25 2026



Join us for 5 weeks of Zoom Sessions here in the SMA Parish Centre, Wilton about the Lenten Prayer Journey

Courtesy of The Presentation Sisters Nano Nagle Place



Interesting Lenten Talk - Tuesday, 24th February at 7.30pm.

At the Crypt, in the Descent of the Holy Spirit Church in Dennehy's Cross, there will be a talk on **Wildlife in the City**. It is an opportunity to hear about some of Cork city's wildlife. The talk should be of interest for people wishing to learn more about the wildlife on their doorstep and to learn more about local biodiversity.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

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.**

OPENING PRAYER

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Each day has its own temptations towards evil. Christ himself was tempted away from good and from what he knew was best in life. As the angels looked after him in his temptation, so he and his saints look after us in ours. 22nd February 2026



leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 50:3-6.12-14.17

R. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. (R)

2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. (R)

3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R)

4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth
shall declare your praise. (R)

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19 (or *5:12.17-19)

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans

**Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.* Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.*

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. **If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of*

being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

GOSPEL Matthew 4:1 - 11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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 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

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we
pray, to make these offerings, for with them
we celebrate the beginning of this venerable
and sacred time. 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.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**One does not live on bread alone, but by every
word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by
which faith is nourished, hope increased,
and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord,
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,
the true and living Bread, and strive to live
by every word which proceeds from your
mouth. Through Christ our Lord.