



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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Christmas Charity

People have been quietly making contributions via the box on the wall at the back of the church over the past months. In this regard I am happy to declare for the Christmas period we will make another drive in support of the people of Gaza, in conjunction with Trócaire.

Our Christmas appeal 2024 in support of Gaza now stands at €3,095. If you'd like to support our Gaza appeal, place a red ribbon on the Christmas tree and place your donation in the money box beside the tree.

Update on Trócaire's Work in Gaza

For St Joseph's Wilton Parish—December 2024

The Raw Facts:

- The latest death toll (as of 12 December 2024) stands at 45,614 Palestinians of which 17,492 are children. 1,139 people from the Israeli population have lost their lives.
- 106,257 Palestinians have been injured and 11,000 are still missing, many remain under the rubble and demolished homes, schools and other buildings that once stood in Gaza.
- So far, 90% of the Gazan population has been displaced – this is 1.9 million IDPs (internally-displaced people).
- Close to 100% of Gaza's population now live in poverty. 495,000 people are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity.
- The education system has collapsed. All 625,000 school-aged children of Gaza have been out of school since October 7, 2023.
 - Gaza's health system has been significantly compromised. 80% of the primary care centres are no longer functional. 19 hospitals out of 36 are out of service.
 - Over 300 humanitarian workers have been killed in Gaza in the past year.



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

THE SMA PARISH CENTRE &
MASS OFFICE WILL REMAIN OPEN
UP TO **MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER**

(BINGO WILL RUN ON THE EVENING OF 23RD)

THE MASS OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT
**4 PM ON 23RD DECEMBER AND WILL
REOPEN ON 2ND JANUARY 2025.**

Parish Charity

Recently Fr. Michael visited the home of the Cork City Missing Person's Search and Recovery whom we supported with a donation of €3,000. Paul O'Flynn was on hand to record the visit and produced an interesting video of the work of the group and their motivation. Scan the QR code to view.



Parish Calendar 2025

Our parish calendar for 2025 is available. The cost of printing is covered from the proceeds from our Pastoral Fund collections taken up as a second collection on certain Sundays. Feel free to take a copy.

*Wishing you all a happy and peaceful
Christmas from everyone here at the SMA!*

Christmas Mass Arrangements 2024

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

Mass at 10.00 am

Vigil Mass for Christmas: 8.00 pm

Wednesday 25th December: Christmas Day

Masses at 10.30 am and 12 noon

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

Thursday 26th December

Mass at 12 noon

Tax Back 2025

We thank our members who participated in our Tax Back program during 2024. We ask new members who can join and participate with us for 2025 to please do so.

All that is required is for a person to be paying tax and during the course of the year, if the accumulation of your contributions exceeds €250 we, the Church, can submit your name to revenue and the parish will receive €120 from the Government, **at no cost to yourself.**

This money will be of great benefit to the upkeep of our parish in 2026.

Open My Heart

How wonderful that in a humble maiden's 'Yes'
lay the destiny of our salvation!
Such a sign of your love for us!
How wonderful that you never impose upon us.
But always ask us, ask us to share your destiny.
How blessed we are through Mary!
How blessed we are that you ask us too!
In everyday things of this Advent,
as I prepare for Christmas,
May I open my heart and say 'Yes' to your will in my life.
Amen.

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 Saviour.

GREETING

In the name of the Father Amen.
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 awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

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 Micah 5:1 - 4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mary's first journey after the annunciation was to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who needed her help. Christmas brings the question to each of us, "who needs my help?"

to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.79

R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R)
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R)
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R)

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

22nd. December 2024



GOSPEL Luke 1:39 - 44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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 our 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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing. **Amen**

And 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.**