

Eco Congregation Report

SMA Wilton Parish, Cork

The parish of St. Joseph's (SMA), Wilton, Cork was recognized as an Eco Congregation in 2018. Since that time, we have honoured the privilege and we wish to share with the wider world some of the efforts we have undertaken since that time.

1. We have constructed a lovely biodiversity garden in our church grounds and with the assistance of our parish videographer we wish to share a short video of the garden.

Video Link: https://youtu.be/8nX_HvLDR1A



2. In the last few years, we have hosted and organized an International Family Day consisting of the various nationalities associated with our parish. It includes the Indian, Filipino, Ukrainian, Eritrean, Polish and Irish communities.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/nl4Wwcb-JEw>



3. In response to the plight of the people of Gaza, we held a raffle and people made financial donations. In the end, the proceeds of €8,000 were raised and given to Trócaire to assist in their work in Gaza.



*Fr. Michael
O'Leary
SMA,
presenting
the cheque of
€8,000 raised
in aid of
Gaza to Mr.
Herve Bund
from Trócaire*



4. We created a Sacred Space in our church for our parishioners to highlight the Season of Creation.

Our Season of Creation sacred space for our parishioners, in St Joseph's Church, Wilton



5. The Wilton Justice Group conducted a prayer service in the grounds of our church to mark the Season of Creation.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/f2d5cYg1qnk>



6. Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchu was invited by the Justice Group to give a talk on Eco Spirituality in our parish.

7. In the SMA Garden, volunteers maintained and grew various shrubs and plants in what is now fondly known as Fr. Tom's Garden. Fr. Tom was the inspiration for the creation of the garden. May he rest in peace.

From the proceeds of the garden, fruits and vegetables were used to make jams and chutneys. Various varieties were produced and proceeds for the sale of these was put to good use.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/dRMTjryRZm8>



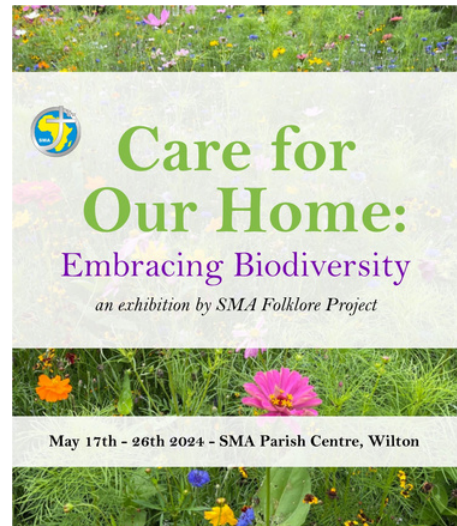
A selection of vegetables freshly picked from Fr. Tom's garden



Fr Tom's garden on the grounds of the SMA House, Wilton

8. To celebrate National Biodiversity Week 2024, The SMA Folklore Project's exhibition "Care For Our Home: Embracing Biodiversity" went on display in the SMA Parish Centre.

The exhibition showcased tips and tricks on how to embrace biodiversity in your day to day life.



9. In October 2024, our parish hosted a Trócaire exhibition highlighting their concerns about climate change. As part of the display, Trócaire brought over a young lady from Rwanda, Ineza, who came to our centre and shared her hopes and concerns about climate change and how it affects her life in Rwanda. Click on the link below to view a video of Ineza as she talks with local school children and parishioners.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NUSRYQqa30>



Ineza speaking with students from Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh



Janet Twomey from Trócaire giving a talk to parishioners and Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh students



Staff of the SMA Parish Centre with Ineza and Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh students

We are happy to share some of the efforts we have made in our parish in order to show that we are trying to keep the spirit alive and the challenge of having our parish be identified as an Eco Congregation.

