



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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Presence

Connecting with God happens in the present moment. When we're caught up in past regrets or future worries, we're distracted from that connection. Just knowing the importance of presence isn't enough to experience its power—we need to practice it every day.

Treating presence as a spiritual practice means taking action, not just thinking about it. Like prayer or meditation, presence is something you engage in daily. It's about grounding yourself in reality and bringing God into each moment through simple acts (like focusing your breath). Daily practice quiets negative thoughts and builds a deeper spiritual foundation that anchors you through life's ups and downs.

Pleased to Meet You Exhibition

A new exhibition is on display in Bishopstown Library. "Pleased To Meet You" is an exhibition by artist Marie Bryan of 12 portraits of residents of Cork Simon Community. 2nd - 20th December.

Join The Oasis Study

UCC are looking for volunteers aged 65 and over to join their study on the benefits of vitamin D fortified foods in adults aged 65+. For more information contact Dr Collette O'Neill. Email: oasis@ucc.ie or Phone: 086 811 0792.

Wilton Through The Years Exhibition

Wilton Through The Years is on display now in the SMA Parish Centre. An exhibition by SMA Folklore Project showcasing old photos and memories from Wilton through the years. On display in the coffee dock, December 2nd - 20th.

Advent Week 2

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

We all need help and encouragement to leave behind familiar ways which have become destructive. We need help in imagining ourselves differently, and imagining the good effects that will have on others. We have to take time to reflect what kind of person God wants us to be, what God's plan is for us.

In all this we need each other's help and encouragement. To change we need another prodding us on: "Go on you can do it!" We need to call out the best in each other like Paul does with his converts. Paul had to make big changes in his life, and it was the Philippians who gave him encouragement in his big change by accepting him as an apostle of the Lord.

Christmas Mass Arrangements 2024

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

Mass: 10.30 am and 12 noon
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

Volunteers Needed For Bingo

Looking for a fun, social way to spend your time? Volunteers are needed to assist for 2 hours with bingo on Monday nights in the SMA Parish Centre. If you're interested in volunteering, contact the Mass Office at 021-4341362.

Parish Calendar 2025

Our parish calendar for 2025 is available at the church entrance. The cost of printing is covered from the proceeds from our Pastoral Fund collections taken up in church. Feel free to take a copy.

South Parish Christmas Concert

St Finbarr's South Church are holding a Christmas concert on Sunday 8th September. Featuring: The Cork Garda Choir, Cork Prison Officers Choir, The Wilcollane Singers, The Bravura Quartet. All welcome!

Blackrock Road Parish Christmas Concert

St Joseph's SMA Parish, Blackrock Rd are holding a Christmas concert on Sunday December 8th at 5pm. Admission is free but there will be a collection for Pieta House. The Cork City Male Voice Choir and Passage West Church Choir will be in attendance.



Our monthly charity, *Cork City Missing Persons Search and Rescue* would like to thank the SMA Knitting for Africa Group for their generous donation to their cause. Well done ladies!

The total amount raised by the parish for CCMP SAR is €2,577.



SMA Church & Parish Centre, Wilton



smawilton

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his
voice heard in the joy of your heart.

GREETING

In the name of the Father Amen.

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..... Amen.

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking
hinder those who set out in
haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of
heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his
company. Who lives and reigns.....



✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God's coming at Christmas is a time for forgiveness for his people. This is also a call to reconciliation among his people.

8th December 2024



filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 125

**R. What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **(R)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **(R)**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the

Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight, and all
mankind shall see the salvation
of God. Alleluia!**



GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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 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

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble
prayers and offerings, and, since we have
no merits to plead our cause, come, we
pray, to our rescue with the protection of
your mercy. 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.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights, and behold the joy which comes
to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual
nourishment, we humbly beseech you,
O Lord, that, through our partaking in this
mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely
the things of earth and hold firm to the
things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

