



# St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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## Jesus & His Jewish Family

When it comes to thinking about Jesus, it is easy to forget that Jesus was brought up as a pious law-abiding member of the Jewish race. The Jewish religion was his religion; his God was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the psalms would have been his prayers; his religious education would have been the experience of his people in history we have in the Old Testament.

Jesus was not an alien from outer space but emerged from within the tradition of Judaism in first century Palestine. He did not grow up in the wilderness, but grew up within a family and within a particular neighbourhood.

What traditions are our young people growing up in today?

### HOW MANY OF US ARE OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER THIS TRADITION?

*(An account from Limerick 1960!)*

ON Christmas day or (more usually) on the day after, St Stephen's Day, the custom was to tour the city churches in order to see the various cribs.

*"On St. Stephen's Day you'd bring the children on a tour of all the churches in the city to see the cribs – I brought mine from top to bottom! They laugh now about it! We lived in the city centre at that time. The best one was in the Redemptorists – the figures were lifelike. They were lovely customs. There wasn't much more to do with the children that time."*

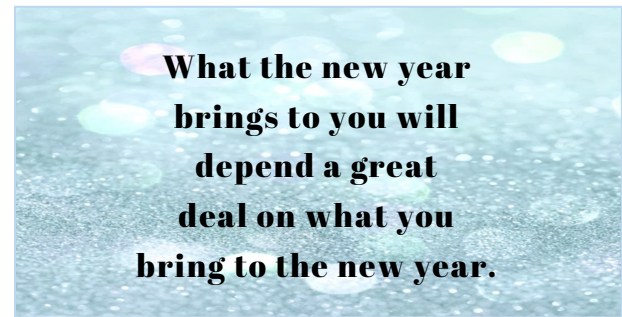
*"Noreen, who was the youngest of her family. Her father used to bring her to "every crib in the city" on Stephen's Day. She makes the point that in her family they didn't have a crib at home, but that "the crib was in the church". She and her family used to visit the churches on St. Stephen's Day: "you'd go into each church and you'd see lots of people all coming and going in and out, all to see the crib."*

## 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.



**What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.**

## We Give Thanks For Christmas

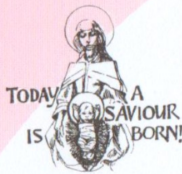
"Thank you" is something we all say every day, Perhaps even without realising it, in shops, on the phone, at work or home, especially when someone is kind to us. Yet how often do we stop to thank you, Lord, to really thank you in our hearts, or do we take you for granted too often, even forget about you altogether? Lord, help us to give thanks today for all the joys you give us through the Saviour's birth. **Amen.**

## Christmas Charity

Our Christmas charity this year is in support of the people of Gaza, in conjunction with Trócaire. As a country, we seem to be holding up their plight as a real issue that should be addressed and it's good that we, a small Christian community, are not just praying for them but also trying to help the agencies who are reaching out to the people in these difficult times. **Our Christmas appeal 2024 now stands at €4,343. 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.**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.



## 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

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 were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus .....

## ✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

### FIRST READING 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

*A reading from the first book of Samuel*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel, 'since' she said 'I



## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for them; to pray for healing of divisions and bitterness. We pray that we may grow in respect and love for our extended family throughout the world. 29th December 2024



asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, "If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord." There she left him, for the Lord.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 83.

**R. They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

1. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. **(R)**
2. They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. **(R)**
3. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed. **(R)**

## SECOND READING 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

*A reading from the first letter of St. John*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL Luke 2: 41-52

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw



him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

*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 THE EUCHARIST ✠

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever.

Through Christ our Lord.