



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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Prayer and Action

A little girl told her father that her brothers were setting traps to catch birds. She was very upset. So he asked her what she was going to do about it. She said, "I pray that the traps will not work, and the birds will go free".

"Anything else?" her father asked.

"I pray that God will direct the birds away from the trap," she answered.

"And is that all that you did?" the father teased.

She said, "When the boys weren't looking, I kicked the traps into the ditch". Now there is a little girl who understands prayer. "God helps those who help themselves". I love the prayer used by St. Thomas Moore: "O God, give me the grace to work for the things I pray for". Which brings me back to the little girl who kicked the traps into the ditch.

Parish Charity: Supporting Gaza

Last week we handed over a cheque for €12,000 to a representative of Trócaire. The generosity of the response is a clear indication that our parish is committed to supporting the people of Gaza. People who wish to continue supporting Gaza can do so in the wall box at the back of the church marked 'GAZA'. This money will be forwarded to Trócaire in due course.



Bank Holiday Mass Times and Novena

Monday 3rd February, being a Bank Holiday, there will be no evening Mass at 5.35 pm. The Blessing of Throats will take place after 10 am Mass.

During the coming week, the Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes will be celebrated during the 10 am Mass each morning.

A Penitential Service will be held Saturday 8th February during the 10 am Mass.

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus

In today's Gospel we have two old people, Simeon and Anna. As old people they are connected with the past and with memory. They represent those people who remained faithful to the ancient promises of God and they long to see the fulfilment of these promises. They hungered for God's presence, and waited for the day when they could see it themselves.

Here is the challenge for us today: At the Eucharist we can take Jesus to ourselves, we can share his life, and pledge ourselves anew to his Gospel. No matter what age we are, we are presented with the same challenge; can we take the Lord into our lives, say yes to who he is, and the person he wants us to be? When we say yes to that, then we too can go our way in peace.

A New Request For Support: GORTA Self-help Africa

Gorta is an Irish supported initiative where funds collected are used to undertake various projects in Africa. We invite people to take a Gorta bag from the back of the church and fill it with items listed on the bag and return to the church. We will see that they are collected from the church. There are leaflets explaining the project at the table. **Thank you to those who have returned their bags.** Financial donations in support of the appeal can be placed in the charity boxes at the front of the church by the altar. **To date we have collected €809.**

Bookkeeper Position

We are looking for assistance for a number of hours per week with the preparation of accounts, VAT, income tax, and other statutory tax returns, payroll etc. Please email: info@wiltonparishcentre.ie for further details.

St Brigid's Day

Everyone knows the St Brigid's Cross but not many know of the "Brideóg" - a figure of Brigid made from rushes or straw that was made to bless and protect the home for the coming year. To celebrate St Brigid's Day, the SMA Folklore Project have put together an exhibition on the different crafts and rituals surrounding the day. Below is a picture of the Knitting for Africa group who helped to craft many Brideógs for display in the exhibition. The exhibition will run until Friday 7th February in the SMA Parish Centre.



SMA Church & Parish Centre, Wilton



smawilton

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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

Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Malachi 3: 1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

World Day for Consecrated Life 2nd February 2025
Forty days ago Jesus was born: now we see him as the light to enlighten all peoples and to guide them on the way to salvation and glory.

will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 23: 7 - 10

R. Who is the king of glory?

It is the Lord.

- O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R)**
- Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war. **(R)**
- O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R)**
- Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory. **(R)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2: 14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2: 22-40 (or *2: 22-32)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see. A light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.*

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming

a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom and God's favour was with him.

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the offering made with exultation by your Church be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, for you willed that your Only Begotten Son be offered to you for the life of the world as the Lamb without blemish. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

