



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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Happy New Year and a big welcome back to all our groups in the SMA Parish Centre!

If you have a little spare time and want to get fit or just be part of a social group, we have a variety of activities to choose from.

Our full list of activities is available in our reception or online. Why not take a look?!



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 your contributions exceed €250 we, the Church, can submit your name to revenue and the parish will receive €112 from the Government, **at no cost to yourself**. This money will be of great benefit to the upkeep of our parish in 2026.

If you register, please fill out the form which is attached to the box regarding your details and the number of the box you take. We need your details to allow us to track a person's individual donations in the coming year. 70 members participated during 2024. We thank them.

Christmas Charity

Our Christmas appeal 2024 in support of Gaza now stands at €9,756. Excellent!

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.

Any person wishing to nominate a parish charity for 2025, feel free to offer the name to Fr. Michael; but be aware it is the responsibility of the nominee to provide the parish with relevant advertising material so that people can be made aware of the nature of the charity.



The Baptism of Jesus

In Luke's account of the baptism of Jesus, God declares to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son", while the Holy

Spirit descends on Jesus. In the baptismal account in Matthew, Mark and Luke there is the fundamental understanding that the identity of Jesus is a divine revelation, not a human deduction.

In the Christmas story, once Jesus' identity has been revealed it is quickly shared with others.

One thing we should take from the Christmas story is that Christ's identity is never received to be kept as a private possession. There are others eager to receive it, even if those others are not the ones we might have expected.

As we leave the Christmas story, do you feel any urge to help the church, our parish, to better witness to the Christmas message?

Figures for Our Web Cam 2024

The figures for our Web Cam for 2024 provided by the supplier makes for interesting reading. How do we interpret them? Are there lessons to be learnt?

Webcam Facts and Viewing	2022	2023	2024
Number of unique viewers	53,247	51,842	55,022
Total time viewed (hours)	68,516	63,591	72,372
Irish viewers	46,713	36,398	41,138
United Kingdom viewers	26,852	10,026	10,057
Viewers from other countries	95	128	83

FIGURES DURING COVID, 2020 - Unique viewers: 123,333

Total time viewed (hours): 122,960

Countries: 102

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **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 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, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 12th January 2025

At the baptism of Jesus, God witnessed that Jesus was his Son. By baptism we too have been made God's children, chosen to bring his Good News to the world.



FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah

'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 103:1-4.24-25.27-30

R. Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are!

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **(R)**
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. **(R)**
3. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide,

with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. **(R)**

4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. **(R)**

5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **(R)**

SECOND READING Titus 2:11 - 14; 3. 4-7

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia !

GOSPEL Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John too declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' *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

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.