



St. Joseph's Church Wilton

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PALMS FOR EASTER BURNING



On Ash Wednesday people were issued with a Palm Leaf. In time it is hoped that, on reflection, people might use the Leaf to write on it some issue or feeling that they identify as a personal blockage in their life towards God's grace.

At the Easter Vigil these leaves will be burnt in the Easter Fire which will be used to light our Easter Candle for 2025.

Please place returned leaves in the box before the cross.

Today's Gospel – The Transfiguration

Lent represents the pilgrimage of life. Some days are with the Lord in the barren wilderness of life. Sometimes he draws us to the mountain of prayer and to the experience of light, connection and sureness. When God grants the moment of insight it is given towards future strengthening. The day of the mountain is to be treasured. Some find great support from keeping a journal of life's blessings. When God reveals his light and presence we must do all we can to receive the moment, to be aware of it and to own it. Like Mary we must treasure the moment and ponder on it, storing it up in memory.

CARING FOR CREATION AND OUR SOULS

Just as a good garden needs tending, loving care and continuous nourishment, so also your body, your mind, your soul and your spirit. The growth of tiny seeds is a mystery.

It happens in three stages – first the seed is sown, then while we go about our daily life the miracle of growth takes place patiently and silently. Finally, when the growth is completed, we enjoy the fruits of the harvest. Spiritual seeds are very similar.

From tiny seeds God's kingdom grows. We just need to plant them and nurture them and nourish them with loving kindness. **What gardening do I need to do, to grow spiritually as a mature person?**

SMA Journal for March

As a parish we were inspired by the visit of Fr. Luigi Maccalli SMA. Fr. Luigi told us of his ordeal and imprisonment in Mali for two years. Fr. Luigi has now produced a book recalling his experience and is on sale in the Mass office at €9. **Enjoy the video in the qr code below, created by Paul O' Flynn.**



You are special

YES YOU

the one reading this

Come to Lourdes as a Young Adult Helper in September

A special Information Evening will take place in Mardyke House, Cork (T12 W8RP) for those aged 18 to 25, who are interested in travelling with the Diocese of Cork and Ross to Lourdes (Sept 19th to 24th) as a Young Adult Helper.



The meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th March.

Lent, A Season of Renewal

Pope Francis tells us that Lent is a new beginning, a path towards continual conversion of heart.

“The Year of Prayer is dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the church and in the world.” – Pope Francis

St. Patrick Day – 17th March.
Mass will be at 10.30 am and 12 noon
There will be no evening Mass.



SMA Church & Parish Centre, Wilton



smawilton

Parish Charity for Lent –Trocaire

During the period of Lent we join with all the parishes in Ireland and rally in support of the work of Trocaire. This year funds collected will be used to support projects that address climate issues. Our collection to date is €244.

People are asked to take a Trocaire envelope which contains a money box which allows for families and friends to join in contributing to our parish support of Trocaire for Lent. Please take one from the back of the church.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from
of old. Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all
our distress.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my
brothers and sisters, that I have greatly
sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have
failed to do, through my fault, through my
fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly
by your word, that, with spiritual sight made
pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, "Look up
to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such
will be your descendants" he told him. Abram
put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as
making him justified.

"I am the Lord" he said to him "who brought
you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you
heir to this land." "My Lord, the Lord," Abram
replied, "how am I to know that I shall inherit
it?" He said to him, "Get me a three-year-old
heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old
ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon". He
brought him all these, cut them in half and put
half on one side and half facing it on the other;
but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of
prey came down on the carcasses but Abram
drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into
a deep sleep and terror seized him. When



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 16th March 2025

The gift of God's love and the following of Jesus is offered
to all of us by God. Lent, and today's gospel, reminds us of
the glory of our calling to follow in Jesus' ways.

the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there
appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand
that went between the halves. That day the Lord
made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:
"To your descendants I give this land, from the
wadi of Egypt to the Great River".

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 26:1.7-9.13-14

R. The Lord is my light and my help.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R)
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' (R)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. (R)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R)

SECOND READING Philippians 3 :17 - 4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

**Shorter form in italics - verses 3:20 - 4:1.*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life.
Take as your models everybody who is already
doing this and study them as you used to study
us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today
with tears, there are many who are behaving
as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They
are destined to be lost. They make foods into
their god and they are proudest of something
they ought to think shameful; the things they
think important are earthly things. **For us, our
homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes
the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus
Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched
bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.
He will do that by the same power with which he
can subdue the whole universe.*



*So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not
give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss
you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and
my crown.**

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ !

**From the bright cloud the Father's voice
was heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved.
Listen to him." Glory and praise to you,
O Christ!**

GOSPEL Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

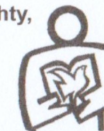
Jesus took with him Peter and John and
James and went up the mountain to pray. As
he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed
and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.
Suddenly there were two men there talking to
him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in
glory, and they were speaking of his passing
which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter
and his companions were heavy with sleep, but
they kept awake and saw his glory and the two
men standing with him. As these were leaving
him, Peter said to Jesus 'Master, it is wonderful
for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one
for you one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He
did not know what he was saying. As he spoke,
a cloud came and covered them with shadow;
and when they went into the cloud the disciples
were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud
saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen
to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus
was found alone. The disciples kept silence and,
at that time, told no one what they had seen.

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 ✠

Pray brothers and sisters,

**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

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse
us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in
body and mind for the celebration of the
paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and
profess your Resurrection until you come
again.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**This is my beloved Son, with whom
I am well pleased; listen to him.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for
allowing us while still on earth to be partakers
even now of the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.