



The Eco-Congregation (EC) is an international ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action, in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community.

In Ireland the Eco Congregation was begun by the Church in Society Forum – a standing committee of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. The Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist churches are involved as well as the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

The ECI vision is to see churches of all denominations throughout Ireland celebrate the gift of God's creation, recognise the inter-dependence of all creation and care for it in their life and mission and through members' personal lifestyles.

Through the EC Christians everywhere are asked to reflect on the beauty of God's world, to consider what practical steps can be taken to prevent further damage to the environment, to pray for our wounded planet and for people in the developing world already affected by climate change and for future generations.

St Josephs Parish Wilton



ECO CONGREGATION AWARD

Presentation on Sunday 4th Nov. 2018



The Eco congregation award is credited to churches of all denominations who take an eco-approach to various aspects of parish life.

The award is judged according to the parish's commitment to the manner in which it reflects an eco-interest in four areas: **worship - lifestyle - property and finance management - community outreach and contact with the developing world.** In September 2018 we were informed that the award will be presented to the parish on the 4th November 2018.

Since 2016 Wilton Parish has been striving to address each of the four areas. As for **life style** the Parish was recognized for various educational programs such as talks on asylum seekers and refugees and also on

The highlight of our **worship** were our harvest festivals in 2016 & 2017 and throughout the liturgical year a conscious effort was made to pray for greater care for creation and, through announcements and in the Parish Newsletter, to raise awareness of the need for action to care for our environment. Newsletters also gave practical information about how this can be achieved.



Thumbprint Campaign for Climate Justice



Wilton Justice Group and other Parish Groups participate in a public event in Wilton Shopping Centre.



Produce for the Parish Garden

care for the environment that were organized and run in the Parish.

The efforts made to improve and increase the level of recycling of waste and to use eco-friendly products and materials in the Church and Parish Centre also helped us to achieve the award.

When it came to evaluating our achievements under **property and finance management** we were given recognition for the complete refurbishing of our Church building. It was also noted that our parish garden now produces an array of fruits and vegetables which provide for the SMA community who live here. The garden also has various people helping in its maintenance.



On **community outreach** note was made of how parishioners displayed great generosity at Christmas in our appeal in support for the Simon Community and the children from a Direct Provision Centre in the city.

On a **Global outreach** level the Parish was seen to be doing very positive work in our support of the work of Fr. John Kilcoyne in Tanzania. In addition parish also supported the work of priests in South Africa, Liberia and Nigeria and also a Women's self-development group in Tanzania.

Receiving the award is recognition for the good work of the Wilton Justice Group and all the very generous support that you, our Church

community has given. Receiving the award is also a statement of a commitment to the ecological policy of the SMA Fathers and their concern for the lives of the less well-off and the marginalized people of the world.



“When I was hungry you fed, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink.” Mt 25:35-40)

