**Vocations Week – 2021**

**Day Five**

**Wednesday 21st April**

***A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John***  6:35-40

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn him away; because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me. Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me and that I should raise it up out he last day.

***St Joseph – a tender and loving father.***

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily ‘in wisdom, in age, in favour with God and with the people around Him.’ St Joseph would have taught the Saviour to walk and talk, to work and play, to grow up as a member of his local and faith communities.

In St Joseph, Jesus would have seen the tender love of God; he would have seen a man of faith who took him to the synagogue where the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, would have spoken to them of a God of tender compassion. Joseph trusted in God’s loving care, despite whatever doubts he may have had, and despite his own weaknesses. Pope Francis reminds us, in his document on St Joseph, that the devil exploits our weaknesses and doubts. He tempts us to judge and criticise other people instead of trying to deal with our own sinfulness and entrusting ourselves to God’s love and mercy.

St Joseph believed that God was working through him in ways that he couldn’t understand. In this, he teaches us to trust that God is with us and is guiding our pathway through life. We may want to be in complete control of everything, but we must remember that God sees the big picture.

**Work and Prayer**

Work cannot substitute for prayer. Nevertheless, we can learn to make work a prayer. How can we do this? By doing our work with Jesus and for Jesus. That is the way to make our work a prayer. It is possible that I may not be able to keep my attention fully on God while I work, but God does not demand that I do so. Yet I can fully desire and intend that my work be done with Jesus and for Jesus. This is beautiful and that is what God wants - our will and our desire to be for him, for our family, for our children, for our brethren, and for the poor.

Mother Teresa,**Work and Prayer**, p271, from *Mother Teresa: Essential Writings*, edited by Jean Maalouf.

**Mass**

**Angelus for Vocations**

**Vocation Interview hosted by Bishop Donal McKeown**

**Daily Examen**

**Rosary for Vocations Glorious Mysteries**

**Night Prayer**

**Mass Wednesday 21st April**

***Introduction****:*

Today’s first reading talks of the early Christians who, despite persecution, went about preaching the Good News, a message which was welcomed by many. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they brought not only God’s Word, but also the gift of healing. The joy of those new converts is reflected in the response to today’s Psalm. We pray that the joy our faith gives us will inspire many young people to follow Jesus, the Bread of Life, by serving Him in the priesthood and religious life.

***Intercessions:***

**Priest:** Trusting in the promise of eternal life for those who know and believe in Jesus, we bring our prayers and needs to the Father.

**Reader:** The response to our intercessions is: Lord hear our Prayer.

1. For Pope Francis, for Bishop McKeown, and for all those in positions of leadership and responsibility in the Church today, that they will listen to, and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit as they guide us in faith.

We pray to the Lord. **R/Lord Hear our Prayer**

1. For Christians and others persecuted for their faith, and for all those who are suffering in any way at this time.

We pray to the Lord. **R/Lord Hear our Prayer**

1. For the gift of joy as followers of Christ, called to share the Good News of God’s love for His people.

We pray to the Lord. **R/Lord Hear our Prayer**

1. For an increase in vocations of those called to shepherd the flock of Christ in His name as deacons and priests in the diocese of Derry and throughout the Church, that they may be faithful ministers of the gospel message they preach.

We pray to the Lord. **R/Lord Hear our Prayer**

1. For health and healing for our brothers and sisters who are sick at this time, and for those who dedicate their lives to caring for the sick and dying. **Response.**

We pray to the Lord. **R/Lord Hear our Prayer**

**Priest:** Loving God, having listened to Your Word, we ask You to strengthen us in our Easter faith, to give us the “Joy of the Gospel” and the strength of the Holy Spirit as we come now to be nourished on Jesus, the Bread of Life. We make these prayers through the same Jesus, Your Son and our Brother, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.