**Vocations Week – 2021**

**Day One**

**Saturday 17th April**

***A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles***  6:1-7

…You, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word. The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

***Prayer to St Joseph, Patron of the Church, Patron of Workers, Guardian of the Redeemer and often invoked as Patron of a Happy Death.***

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

**The Everywhere God**

May we open our minds and hearts

to the presence of God-in-us.

May God-in-us,

the “everywhere God,”

find generous and courageous expression

in our words and actions

as we undertake

to make the reign of God evident in our world.

Amen.

Michael Morwood, **The Everywhere God**, p6, from *Praying a New Story*.

All reflections taken from *Maryknoll Book of Inspiration, Readings for Every Day of the Year*, Michael Leach and Doris Goodnough, Editors, Orbis Books, New York, 2010.

**Mass**

**Angelus for Vocations**

**Daily Examen**

**Rosary for Vocations: Joyful Mysteries**

**Night Prayer**

**Mass Saturday 17th April**

***Introduction:***

In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn how the faith community that formed the infant Church, were asked to choose from among themselves women and men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom, who would continue to devote themselves to prayer and to the service of the word. In this year of Saint Joseph, we pray for all Christians, and all the baptised. As disciples, may we be inspired by Joseph’s example and fulfil our vocation to be watchful guardians of families, and the defenders of the children in our care. As the family of God, may we cherish and nurture the vocation of the younger generation.

***Prayer of the Faithful:***

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

1. That as Joseph and Mary welcomed the gift of the Child Jesus, may all mothers and fathers prayerfully nurture their children’s vocations and especially encourage an openness in those who are called to serve the Gospel.

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

1. For an increased understanding among our young people that they are uniquely chosen by God to be his disciples through their particular vocation; we pray especially for those who have been called to marriage or single life.

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

1. That all mothers will draw close to Mary and encourage an openness to the Holy Spirit in their children; may their daughters and sons find love, support and acceptance, as they try to discern their calling in life

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

1. That all fathers will foster an awareness among their children of having been called by God. As parents and guardians may their love, prayer, guidance and example inspire the young people in their care to become genuine disciples of Jesus Christ.

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

1. That men and women will be encouraged to love God and their neighbour through being open to recognise and answer God’s call to serve Him and His people, by becoming witnesses inspired by the life of Christ.

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