**Vocations Week – 2021**

**Day Six**

**Thursday 22nd April**

***A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John***  6:40-51

Jesus said to the crowd: ‘No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by the Father, and to learn from it, is to come to me.

***St Joseph – Obedient Listening***

God spoke to St Joseph on a number of occasions in dreams, to reveal his saving plan to him. When he’s confused about Mary’s pregnancy, and unsure of what to do, he’s assured in a dream that God is at work in his life. Later, in another dream, an angel tells him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt, to be safe from Herod. In a third dream, an angel advises him that it’s safe to return to Israel. While the Holy Family are making their way there, a final dream warns him that, rather than going back to Judea, he should take Mary and Jesus to Galilee, and so they settle in Nazareth. We’re told in the Gospels that Jesus “… learned obedience through what he suffered…” It’s possible also that he learned obedience from St Joseph, learning to listen to the Father and do His bidding. Through St Joseph’s obedience, the child Jesus was saved, so it’s true to say, as Pope Francis writes in *Patris Corde,* that St Joseph cooperated fully [through his obedient listening] in the great mystery of salvation.

**Go and Tell**

Eucharist is always mission. The Eucharist that has freed us from our paralysing sense of loss and revealed to us that the Spirit of Jesus lives within us empowers us to go out into the world and to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, liberty to captives, and to proclaim that God has once again shown his favour to all people. But we are not sent out alone; we are sent with our brothers and sisters who also know that Jesus lives within them. It belongs to the essence of the Eucharistic life to make this circle of love grow. Having entered into communion with Jesus and created community with those who know that he is alive, we can now go and join the many who travel alone, and help them discover that they too have the gift of love to share… Every time there is a real encounter leading from despair to hope and from bitterness to gratitude, we will see some of the darkness being dispelled and life, once again, breaking through the boundaries of death.

Henri Nouwen**, Go and Tell**, p273, from *With burning Hearts*.

**Mass**

**Angelus for Vocations**

**Vocation Interview hosted by Bishop Donal McKeown**

**Daily Examen**

**Rosary for Vocations Luminous Mysteries**

**Night Prayer**

**Mass Thursday 22nd April**

***Introduction:***

In this Novena of Prayer for Vocations, the Liturgy of the Word directs our attention today to the consoling words of Jesus, reminding us that the Father draws us to Christ. It is with open hearts to his word and by living it that we come closer and closer to his Son. This belief, this humble act of faith, leads to eternal life. With such reassurance and confidence, let us open our hearts this day to be drawn to his love and mercy.

***Prayers of the Faithful:***

**Priest:**

As Philip led the eunuch to know and love God through the Sacred Scriptures, so too we bring before God our needs and the needs of our world as we pray for that same contemplative wisdom to hear the voice of God calling in our midst.

**Reader:** The Response to our intercessions is: Lord hear our Prayer

For our Holy Father Pope Francis, that he may continue to lead the Church by his faithful witness of humble service, and that he and all those in Church leadership may continue to draw others to the Father through their faithful example.

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

For all those who are called to preach the Gospel in parts of our world where there is religious persecution. May their work be rooted in confidence that the Lord is their strength and their might.

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

For all those who are called to serve God and neighbour in political life. That they may always promote a society that is just, caring and merciful.

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

For those who have received the Sacrament of Baptism this past Easter, that the grace they have received may bear fruit in their mission in homes, schools and parishes as joyful servants of our loving and merciful Lord.

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

For those who are discerning a call to Priesthood and Religious Life. That the example of the eunuch in today’s reading may move their hearts to cherish and love God’s word and in turn give them an eager longing to share that word with others.

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

We pray for the work of vocations leaders and promoters throughout the Diocese of Derry. That their efforts may always be a rich blessing for the life of our diocese, our Church and our world.

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

**Priest:**

Lord our God, inspired by the faithfulness of Philip, and by the promise of eternal life from Jesus, may we be drawn closer to you, that we may know, love and serve him always. Hear these prayers which we make as we strive to build your Kingdom of mercy and truth in our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.