

CONTEMPLATING SAINT JOSEPH

WORDS WRITTEN OR TRANSLATED BY FR STEPHEN REDMOND SJ
CHAPLAIN TO THE LICENSED TRADE BRANCH

Joseph: the hero, the 'just man' (dikaios: upright, morally sound) of Matthew's infancy narrative. He first appears as a man in crisis because his betrothed is pregnant and not by him, trying to combine compassion with observance of his religious code. God-guided in dreams, he accepts mother and child, protects them and finally settles down in Nazareth. In Luke's infancy narrative he is the devoted escort of Mary at Jesus' birth and on ritual occasions and is described simply as 'parent' and 'father'. Both gospels present him as of David's line, as therefore a guarantor of Jesus' messianic standing.

Through Joseph Jesus took his place in Jewish culture and society. He is the 'son of Joseph, son of the carpenter'. (There are ancient texts of Mark which apply 'carpenter' to Jesus himself. The Greek word is *tekton* which means a craftsman in wood, stone or metal, but especially wood). It is very likely that foster-father, and son followed the same trade. As well as working in Nazareth they may have been employed at nearby Sepphoris which Herod Antipas was having rebuilt and fortified. It is not too far-fetched to imagine the future mocker of the Lord coming across Jesus and Joseph as he inspected his new city in the making.

Herod certainly played a part in the Lord's Passion. And it could be said that Joseph remotely influenced the wording of the inscription on the Cross: Jesus would not have been 'of Nazareth' unless Joseph had settled down there and 'King of the Jews' is a reminder of Joseph's Davidic descent.

And when Jesus said, 'no one knows the Son but the Father and no one knows the Father but the son' (Matthew 11,27), perhaps he was thinking not only of his heavenly Father but also of the 'just man' who, next to his Mother, was the human person closest to him in his humanity

(Matthew 1, 2, 13. Mark 6. Luke 1, 2, 3, 4. John 6).

From Gospel Cast (Messenger Publications) by Stephen Redmond SJ

*Joseph in heaven, we come in hope and praise
Bring to our mind your life, the way you trod
Descended from David, you lived in hidden days
Chosen as special in the plan of God*

*Faithful to Mary, you're God's chosen man
You are to foster, cherish Mary's Son
Close to the heart of God's redemptive plan
Making a home to house the Promised One*

*Child in a manger: you see the tiny Boy
Here is the One the prophets had foretold
Praying with her, you welcome Him in joy
Here is the One to love and have and hold.*

*God, Son and Word, eternal King of kings
Light of the world, the Lord of life and death
Sovereign on whose word the cosmos swings
Now He obeys your word in Nazareth*

*Praise to the Father, Spirit, Son: the Three
Fount of the gifts and graces you were given
Spouse, foster-father, pray for us that we
May find our Nazareth with you in Heaven.*

Amen
Lauds hymn on Saint Joseph's feast-day.



The Sheaf



ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

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WINTER 2014

On the feast of All Saints, 1 November 2014, Dom Benedict Anderson, a Benedictine Monk of Silverstream Priory, Stamullen, Co Meath was ordained to the priesthood by Dr Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath. The ordination took place in Saint Mary's Church, Drogheda.

On the following day Dom Benedict celebrated his First Mass in Saint Kevin's Church, Harrington Street, Dublin.

It was the first priestly ordination for the relatively newly established Religious Order in Stamullen, and a signal grace for Silverstream Priory, where a number of men from different places and backgrounds have enquired about monastic life, some since Dom Benedict's ordination in November.

The sermon at Dom Benedict's First Mass was given by the Prior of the community at Silverstream, Dom Mark Daniel Kirby OSB. He concluded his talk by directly addressing Dom Benedict -



Rev Dom Benedict Anderson OSB imparted his First Blessing on the Bishop of Meath Most Rev Michael Smith

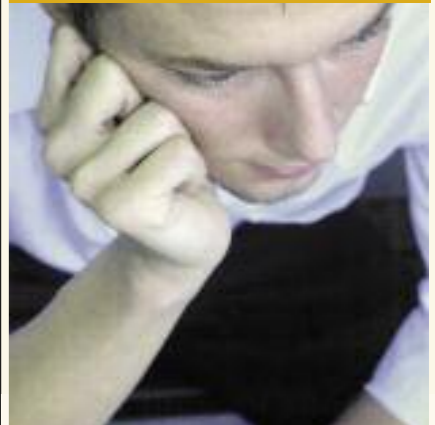
Jesus Christ: *And whereas indeed he was the Son of God, he learned obedience by the things which he suffered: And being consummated, he became, to all that obey him, the cause of eternal salvation, called by God a high priest according to the order of Melchisedech* (Hebrews 5:8-10).

Recall this when, in the years of priestly service that lie ahead of you, you will find yourself buffeted by temptation, surrounded by obscurity, and marked by infirmity. Suffering is not an obstacle to your priesthood; it is, rather, an essential part of it, a participation in the immolation of the Lamb that, day after day, you will make present at the altar. Yours it is to be not only the priest who offers, but also the victim offered.

All of this the Father will make divinely fruitful. Although yours is a monastic priesthood, hidden and shrouded in silence, it is a priesthood in the heart of the Church and for the whole Church, a priesthood whose effect touches the very ends of the earth, and causes the radiance of the Blood of Christ to shine from the rising of the sun to the setting thereof, making hope spring up in the hearts of the hopeless, and opening streams of joy in this valley of tears.

In order that your priesthood may be protected, confirmed, and inflamed with Divine Love of the Sacred Heart, I entrust you to the all-pure Mother of God. She who accompanied her Priest-Son to the altar of the Cross is with you, at the altar, today. May she be for you today and until the hour of your death, your life, your sweetness, and your hope.

Ever thought about being a priest?



Holy Spirit give me wisdom to discern the path of life you wish me to follow.

Help me to see clearly the things that matter and the things that don't.

Help me to use every gift I have, remembering that it is from you.

Spirit of God give me a generous and open heart, making me an instrument of peace and love in whatever choice I make. Amen.

Dearest Father Benedict, you begin today the exercise of your priestly office. Today, for the first time, you appear before us as a living icon of the Eternal High Priest, who, lifted high upon the altar of the Cross, makes of Himself a Victim immolated and offered to the Father.

In a few moments we will intone the Offertory Antiphon of today's Mass, which, by a singular coincidence, is the occasion of a cameo appearance of the holy prophet Job. Job appears at the Offertory of the Mass today as an ante-type of the suffering Christ. We will sing of Job and in him recognize a veiled presentation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, *the man of sorrows, acquainted with suffering* (Isaia 53:3).

If suffering has, in any way, marked your life, dear Father Benedict, it is because it was essential that you should be thus prepared for the mystery of the victimal priesthood. It is written concerning Our Lord

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Insurance Branch Maureen O'Brien
Motor Trade Nuala Mahon, Rita Healy-Griffin

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardfield/Rathbarr Paddy O'Donovan, Owen O'Keefe
Ballinteer Bill Campbell
Ballymun, Our Lady of Victories Bridie Linehan
Ballyphehane Madge Keating, Tommy Twomey
Blarney Chrissie Hayes, Chris Kelleher, Albert O'Callaghan, Patricia O'Callaghan, Maura Gantley, Tom Hallissey, Gerard O'Sullivan, Mary Cronin, Pat Murphy, Kieran Gaffey, Paddy Hickey
Borrisoleigh Biddy Young
Boyle Sr Miriam Finnegan
Buncrana Sadie McGroarty, Josie Grant
Cashel Maire McHugh, Honor Davern
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Lena O'Connell
Churchtown Betty Hogarty
Cleenish Bridie Corrigan, Cahal Leonard, David McNulty, Vincent Maguire, Lisa Meehan, Tessie McTiernan, Tom Keaney, Bernadette Calon, Mary DeLacey, Carmel Cullen, John McGovern
Coolock, St Brendan's Anna Downey
Derrygonnelly/Botha Liam Elliott, Malachy McCauley, Bridie Carr, Moira McGinley, Agnes Leonard, Francie Farmer, Agnes McHugh
Douglas Nell Minchane
Drogheda Maria Hartnett
Dundalk Dolly Roddy, Padraig Herr, Gerry Clarke, Michael Carroll

Ennis Ann O'Connor, Myra Moriarty
Enniskeane Peggy Walsh, Gerard Nyhan, Kathleen Noonan, Mary Hurley
Errigal Katie Mullan
Francis Street, Dublin Eileen O'Reilly
Grauguenamanagh Biddy Randle, Maureen O'Donnell
Harold's Cross May Begley
Holy Family, Ballymagroarty Myra Coyle
Killorglin Timmy McGillicuddy
Knockninny Cathal Leonard, Eimer Rose McKiernan, Carolan Winterson, Martin Cleary, Rosaleen Brookhead, Mary Kate McCaffrey, Malachy McCauley, Edward McKiernan, Owen McDermott, Annie McSorley, Eileen McManus, Pete McBrien, Thomas Campbell, Sean Donohoe, Willie Gilleece, John Lunney, Mary McBrien
Loughrea Mary Scully
Lurgan Kathleen Menary, Kathleen Skelton, Laurence McGeown
Macroom Chrissie Fitzgerald
Maghera Rose Trainor, Lucy Bradley, Terence Madden, Fr Kevin McKenna, Gerard McFlynn, Anne McEldowney, Liam McFaul, Jacinta Woods, Rose Sargent
Marino Paddy Cullen
Mullagh Susan Murray, Rita Murray
Navan (St Mary's Jubilee Branch) Oliver Hilliard
Portadown Ann Magarity, Pat Dignam, Margaret Daly, Sheila McKeever
Steelstown, Our Lady of Lourdes Rosemary O'Reilly
St Anthony's, Clontarf Mary Hanrahan, Sheila Mrozek, Mary Byrne

St Brendan's, Tralee John Lynch
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Maureen Levins, Charlie Golden, Kay Sullivan
St John Vianney, Ardlea Margaret Fitzsimons
St Mary's, Drogheda Margaret Tiernan
St Munchin's, Limerick Josie Geary
St Patrick's, Limerick Ann Bourke
Swanlinbar Patsy Hughes, Pauline McManus, Eileen McGovern, Anne Kelleher, Seamus McManus, Maggie Ann McGovern
Templemore Dermot O'Shea
Templeport Pauline Tierney, Michael Tierney, John Bannon, Noel McKiernan, Tommy McTeigue, Mary Gorby, Caimen Dolan, Hubert Feehan, Phyllis Maguire, Sheila O'Reilly, Fergus O'Reilly, Chrissie McKiernan, Jim Askin, Lena McGovern, Sean O'Reilly, Dymna Baxter, Edward (Ned) McKiernan, Mary C (Cissy) Duffy, Katie Dolaghan
Templetoohy Ned Fogarty
Tournafulla John J T (Jackie) Lenihan
Trillick Kathleen McCann, Madeline Maguire, Albert Grainger, Benny McCann, Kathleen Cassidy, Pat Jo McClenaghan, Phyllis McNulty, John Murphy, Patsy Farry, Sara Garrity, Tom Gallagher, Sean McLoughlin
General Adrian Conway

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations €210, €30, €20
First picture on front page courtesy Mr Pawel Kula



Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady's Island, at the conclusion of the Society pilgrimage 27 July 2014



To mark the Jubilee Year of the Holy Name of Jesus 2014, the Franciscans with the Poor Clares have set up a website www.holyname.ie



Students from the Seminary in Maynooth spoke at the Central Council meeting thanking the members and benefactors for their support



President of the Society George Dee presenting his Annual Report to Central Council 18 October 2014 at All Hollows College



Garda Insp John Duffy (rtrd) and Supt Pat Killalea (rtrd) attended the November Mass for deceased members of the Vocational Branches

On 23 November, the feast of Christ the King, the Dublin Diocesan Committee arranged a Mass in St Andrews Westland Row in thanksgiving for Ordained Priesthood. At the Mass Fr Gerry Moore, Co-parish Priest of Sandyford spoke about his journey to Ordination.

My vocation to priesthood is one which is commonly called 'a late vocation'. I was 33 when I began my formation studies in Clonliffe College in 1996. I grew up the oldest of seven, having 2 brothers and 4 sisters - on a small farm in north Co Dublin. Our primary school was a 2-room parish school after which I went to secondary school in Colaiste Cholmcille CBC in Swords.

My brothers and sisters and I had our jobs on the farm and all during school years I knew exactly what I wanted to do with my life. I never had a moment's doubt...it wasn't farming...I wanted to be a chef...I wanted to cook and travel the world. I had my heart set on 'cutting out' of school after inter-cert but my very wise parents insisted otherwise and I continued (under protest) to leaving cert.

Next came two years in Cathal Brugha Street Catering College learning the skills of my trade. It was a fantastic place and I loved it. I did a little competition work and tasted some success which boosted my confidence enormously. After college I was working in another part of the country when I got a call from a friend who had begun work in a very good hotel in Kerry. To cut a long story short, I started work there a few weeks later and so began a very privileged number of years working with great people and great ingredients in a great environment. In many ways these were the most formative years of my life as I met many of my still best friends during those years. Through contacts made during these years I got to spend a number of winters working in America (many Irish hotels closed for the winter months), and later spent two full years working there.

After that I returned home to take the position in a new hotel which was about to open. This was another fantastic experience despite being hard, hard work. In hindsight, I firmly believe my return home was inspired by the Lord himself as a gift, for a year after my return my mother died after a long battle with cancer. My family and I were able to be with her during all that time and that is something I will always be grateful for. After five years working in this new hotel, I finally plucked up the courage to explore something which had, on and off for years entered my mind. I left my job to embark on a totally new voyage of life and faith.

From our earliest days our parents guided all of us in our Catholic faith. We were far from Holy-Joes might I add, but Parish was a huge feature of our school life and our home life. 10am Sunday Mass was our Mass and we all went together. The ritual began on Saturday afternoon with the preparing of the clothes and the shoes. Holydays, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Corpus Christi, the May Altar, Christmas were all part a parcel of our family and parish life. It was all perfectly normal for us to participate. Of course there came the rebellious teenage years, when we each flexed our budding independence...but we settled down from those flutters. ...



Fr Gerry Moore

In 1976 when I was 13 a new curate was appointed to our parish and he stayed with us for 13 years. At every chance he would say to me and my friends 'What are you going to do when you leave school?' We'd all respond with all our hopes and dreams for study and great careers to which he'd respond 'Great, Great...get all that done...then get yourself into Clonliffe'. He never gave up 'sowing the seed' as scripture says. Every now and then, during my college and early working days he would say 'when are you going to talk to them in Clonliffe?' I thought he was mad...and told him so many times!

During my catering college years, early working years, time in America and the returned years I did practice my faith, though now I would say I did so passively. During those times abroad, when I was in a multi-denominational and multi-faith environment it was so important for me to go to Mass, for deep inside I knew that my family would be doing the very same thing back at home and I felt in touch with them all. From time to time I used to find myself gazing into the sanctuary, looking at the priest and for a moment or two asking 'Could I do that... could I stand there before people and encourage them in life and in faith in Jesus Christ?' Before long I'd be shaking myself back to reality and off I'd go about my business. I often thought of that curate who said to us 'get you into Clonliffe' but I always passed it off as an invitation to one of the other lads.

As time went by I began to experience what I can only describe as 'uneasiness' in my chosen career. I was now beginning to earn a decent salary, thought I had fallen in love and was looking into buying my own home. But I was finding myself more and more pondering this priesthood question. Eventually I had to talk seriously to someone and who better than my curate friend who by now was a parish priest. Off I went to meet him and I ever so delicately told him the story. I'll never forget his initial response. He threw his head back and roared with laughter 'Well it's about time' says he. After a long chat, and after I had expressed some of my concerns about going to seminary he gave me the greatest advice ever, he said 'always

remember that you go to seminary first to see, not to be'. I found that to be most reassuring. With his help I made contact with the Diocesan Vocations Director with whom I met regularly for about a year, beginning formation in September 1996.

If I were to talk in any detail of those years we would be here until the second coming. But I can say that I can only describe those seven years as a gift from the Church...in particular from the people, religious and priests of the Archdiocese of Dublin and you, the dedicated members of St Joseph's Society. I was given space to pray and reflect and the gift of formation in life, prayer and priesthood for which I am eternally grateful. Those seven years were filled with ups and downs, joys and sorrows, achievements and many challenges. But most of all they were years filled with glimpses of Jesus Christ alive in his people, nurturing and sustaining us with the beauty and power of the Sacraments of the Church to be his living presence in the world.

After my ordination in June 2003 here in this very church - the church where I was also baptised, I was appointed as curate to the parish of Our Lady Mother of Divine Grace, Raheny. From day one I was very blessed among the priests and people there. I next spent two years in Balbriggan and am currently part of the team in Sandyford/Balally/ Glencullen/ Kilternan parishes.

In a world of vast life choices, we (all of us here today) have together chosen to follow Christ, our Shepherd King, who is the way, the truth and the life...and as a priest I am truly blessed to celebrate the Sacraments of the Lord's abiding presence through which he strengthens, heals and nourishes his people in striving to live in faith, hope and love. The ministry of priesthood is a radical choice in today's world where so many tend to hold back from commitment to anything. Please, be under no illusion, it is not always easy, people can be very demanding at times but my experience has always been that the Lord works through the challenges and even through the failures as well as through the 'successes'. All he asks is a commitment to allow Him to work his grace in particular ways through his priests.

My humble encouragement to you, members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society, is for you to be passionate in your ministry...the very beautiful and necessary ministry of 'encouragement'. Sow seeds of encouragement. Priests come from ordinary families...Your priest is someone's son...The question for every catholic family is 'could your son be someone's priest?' God is calling many to priestly ministry...of that I am sure. One of the great challenges of today is allowing the Holy Spirit be heard amidst all the business and noise of our world. Explore new ways of encouraging...be persistent in prayer...joyful in your ministry. Say to many 'Your priest is someone's son' and ask 'could your son be someone's priest?'

May the Lord bless us all.

FORM OF BEQUEST

Please remember St. Joseph's Young Priests Society in your Will

*I give and bequeath to St. Joseph's Young Priests Society,
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 the sum of
€..... for the charitable purposes of the Society and
I declare that the receipt of the General Secretary
of the Society shall be sufficient discharge
to my Executor*