

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent
With Deacon Chris

24th December

Light a candle and make sure it is safe and don't leave unattended.

Joseph

In some ways St. Joseph can be a forgotten saint. His role in the History of Salvation is sometimes forgotten.

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of St. Joseph on 19th March, the memorial of St. Joseph the Worker on 1st May and by definition he is remembered on the Feast of the Holy Family.

In St. Gregory's church in Preston there used to be a statue of St. Joseph on his death bed. He has Jesus and Mary at his side. He is the patron of a happy death. I have seen one other example of this statue which happens to be in St. Joseph's church also in Preston.

Scripture has a habit of repeating itself.

Remember Joseph and his multicoloured coat? He was sold into slavery by his brothers and ended up in Egypt. He was also a dreamer. His father was Jacob.

When we turn to St. Joseph we remember that he too went to Egypt. Not to escape a famine but the death threat to our Lord. He was told what to do in dreams. When Joseph was born some 36 generations later it is noted that his father was also called Jacob.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

God our Father, when we were baptised nobody, only you knew and still know how we will turn out. Give us the grace to be one of your prophets as Zechariah foretold at his son, John's, circumcision. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Gospel of 22nd December

Luke chapter 1 verses 67 to 70

Full acceptance

Zechariah has got his voice back. He is able to speak because he has accepted to the full what the angel told him.

The words that St. Luke has him speak are recalled every day a Morning Prayer when the Church recites the Benedictus. This is a summation of what God has done over the many years. It reflects the promises that Mary referred to in the Magnificat. He also maps out the route that John the Baptist will take when his time comes to go out and prepare the way for the Lord.

In time our Lord will say that there has never been a greater prophet than John the Baptist. We have a role model par excellence to follow.

Your Own Time.

Rosary. Contemplate on what we are about to celebrate and in particular the journey that we have taken through Advent

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Concluding Prayer

God our Father, we have made a journey through Advent in preparation for the Already and the Not yet. Accept our humble offering of our prayers and of ourselves. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.