

## Dementia Prayer Week 12-19 March: Feast of St Joseph

*"Let this Prayer Week become your link to the many families struggling with dementia"* Bishop David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and Lead Bishop to Pastoral Care Project

'The Fathers Love' by Frances Molloy

The Holy Family book written by Father Livinus Donohoe, OCD., brings the Holy Family of Nazareth into our ever day life. Sensing this closeness and drawing us to Jesus through the eyes of Joseph, Fr Livinus writes, *"When you talked to Him (Jesus) you were looking into the human eyes of God."*

This book has been a wonderful companion during Dementia Prayer Week 2014, and since, and in taking a deeper look at the gospel of Luke 2:41-52.

The responsibility of caring was something Joseph knew firsthand, which may be an inspiration to all who are caring for a family member or friend in the community.

The beautiful image here depicts the 'Finding the Child Jesus in the Temple', painted by Sr Annie Bromham IBVM for the Pastoral Care Project, in pride of place in the charity office.

The painting has been on several visitations to schools and used with the gospel of Luke 2:41-52 for spiritual imaginative prayer, assembly and collective worship. The painting has been used on many occasions for parish reflection, retreat days.

In the gospel, along with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, there are many characters in the story, the teachers in the temple, the crowd and the wider family.

Little is written about Joseph, so the question was asked to adults and pupils:

How do you think Joseph may have felt realising Jesus was missing?



*I never thought of it before, how it touches my life, and the lives of others too.*

*The experience any parent or carer might feel when a loved one is lost in town.*

*Mary looks so young, often I forget how young she was.*

*The star overhead speaks to me of the book - the Word of God opened.*

*Did Mary tell Jesus off, maybe Joseph said Mary, don't be annoyed, he's only a boy.*

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Read more about imaginative contemplation of the scriptures

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-spiritual-exercises/ignatian-contemplation-imaginative-prayer/>

The Fathers Love Imaginative Reflection - Joseph,

Realising Jesus was missing, you know how it must have felt being overshadowed by sense of guilt...

the litany of 'if only' recited to the tune of hope, accompanied by a heartbeat  
... endless time...hope ebbing away, when suddenly You and Mary see Him....

*Jesus is in the Temple!*

Joseph's response:

"The flood of emotions... relief....

Joy deep within me...

Jesus looking to His mother...

her hand goes out to hold him.

Feeling the tears welling up, rolling down my cheek.

Thinking the situation with Herod was difficult...the flight into Egypt...

back then we could pick Jesus up and hold him.



Now, it is not us who is holding Jesus...

Jesus who is holding us, together in the Fathers Love.

Nothing compares to this moment.

Conclude with Our Father

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