

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 their closeness, Fr Livinus draws us to Jesus through the eyes of Joseph, "*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, in looking at the gospel of Luke 2:41-52.

Caring responsibility was something Joseph knew firsthand, which may be an inspiration to all who are caring role of their family member or in their community.

The beautiful image here depicting Finding the Child Jesus in the Temple, painted by Sr Annie Bromham IBVM for the Pastoral Care Project here is the office.



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

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

Below are a few responses from adults and primary school children who responded to the question How do you think Joseph 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 Word of God is 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/>

Painting of the Fathers Love - Refection focused Joseph

Joseph, you knew how it felt to be 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....

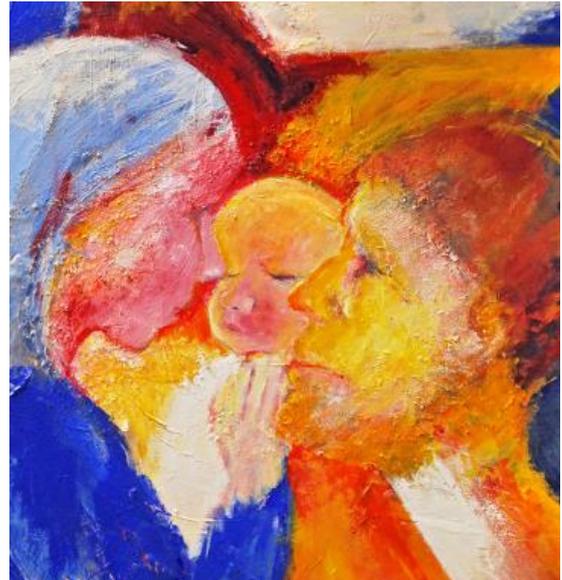
Jesus is in the Temple!

Joseph's response:

*"I feel a flood of emotions... relief...
Joy deep within me...
Jesus looking to His mother.
Her hand goes out to hold him.
Looking at them ...
Feeling the tears welling up within me.
I thought 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...it is Jesus who is holding us together
in the Fathers Love.
Nothing, Lord, compares to this moment.*

Conclude with Our Father



Charity No. 1094766

info@pastoralcareproject.org.uk
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