**Vocations Week – 2021**

**Day Four**

**Tuesday 20th April**

***A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John***  6:30-35

Jesus answered: ‘I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ ‘Sir,’ they said, give us that bread always,’ Jesus answered: ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.’

***St Joseph – “A beloved father” – Pope Francis***

Pope Francis refers to St Joseph’s greatness as the husband of the Virgin Mary and the “father” of Jesus. As such he placed himself “at the service of the entire plan of salvation.” As a husband and father, he sacrificed his entire life and all his abilities to God’s plan for His people. Many people venerate St Joseph as a father and protector. There are many prayers written in his honour, prayed on Wednesdays and during the month of March in particular. Just as we read in the book of Genesis that the sons of Jacob were told to “Go to Joseph” who was their brother, for the help they needed in a time of famine, Pope Francis invites us to “Go to Joseph” to ask him to intercede for us, his spiritual children.

**Callings**

“What does the Lord require of you,” asks the prophet Micah? Only this: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” Whether we are a doctor or a minister, an artist or a taxi driver, a nanny or a teacher, our fundamental vocation is to become just, loving, and humble persons during our short lives here on this earth. [This] always begins with how we treat our loved ones and the people in the circles of our everyday lives. As we consider our social responsibilities as citizens of our country and our world, though, our callings extend beyond our personal circle to an ever-expanding network of connection and solidarity with people both far and near.

Neafsey**, Calling**, p208, From *A Sacred Voice Is Calling.*

**Mass**

**Angelus for Vocations**

**Vocation Interview hosted by Bishop Donal McKeown**

**Daily Examen**

**Rosary for Vocations Sorrowful Mysteries**

**Night Prayer**

**Mass Tuesday 20th April**

***Introduction:***

In this week of prayer for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese we begin the celebration of Mass aware of the strength of our prayer when grounded in faith and trust in the Risen Lord.

***Prayer of the faithful***

Sharing in the faith of St Stephen we bring our prayers in confidence before Our Heavenly Father

**Reader:** The response to our intercessions is: Lord hear our Prayer.

1. For Pope Francis, Bishop Donal and all who lead us in our faith, that they may witness the same zeal for spreading the gospel as that of St Stephen.…

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

1. That more men and women will joyfully answer the call of the Lord to proclaim His life, death and resurrection as priests and religious.…

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

1. For the priests of our diocese: that through their witness and example many young men will follow in their footsteps.…

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

1. For all who suffer from sickness, rejection, or persecution; in their suffering may they recognise the love, support and presence of the risen Lord.…

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

1. For all our dead, particularly those who served as priests and religious in our diocese; may they hear the words of our merciful saviour ‘well done good and faithful servant, …

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

Heavenly Father give us the courage to live in the spirit of St Stephen, praying every day ‘Thy Will be Done.’ We make all our prayers to you through Christ our Lord.