**Vocations Week – 2021**

**Day Three**

**Monday 19th April**

***A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John***  6:22-29

Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal. Then they said to him, ’What must we do if we are to do the works God wants?’ Jesus gave them this answer, ‘This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.’

***St Joseph – “An extraordinary man!” – Pope Francis***

Pope Francis says that, during the pandemic, he has seen how “…our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked.” Many people whose names never hit the headlines are doing extraordinary things which are shaping the decisive events of our history right now. He mentions with gratitude doctors, nurses, shopkeepers, supermarket staff, cleaners, caregivers, transport workers, those who provide essential services and ensure public safety, volunteers, priests, religious men and women….. Working individually, but with a common purpose, they offer hope; they share the responsibility for defeating the pandemic. He goes on to mention parents, grandparents and teachers who are showing our children how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, to look ahead with hope, and they encourage prayer. The Pope offers St Joseph to us as a support and guide in times of trouble, as someone who works quietly, yet effectively, in the background. We turn to St Joseph as a Protector in times of danger.

**Witnesses**

Witnesses are those who testify from personal experience about what they saw or heard. Like a witness who takes the stand in court and pledges to speak the truth, Christian witnesses take the stand in the court of life and speak the truth of God. They tell us that God is alive and at work, that Jesus is risen and calls us to his discipleship journey of compassionate love, and that God’s reign of peace and nonviolence is at hand, right now, at this very moment.

John Dear,**Witnesses**, p85, from “*You Will Be My Witnesses*,” *Saints, Prophets, and Martyrs*.

**Mass**

**Angelus for Vocations**

**Vocation Interview hosted by Bishop Donal McKeown**

**Daily Examen**

**Rosary for Vocations Joyful Mysteries**

**Night Prayer**

**Mass Monday 19th April**

***Introduction:***

In today’s Gospel Jesus tells the crowd that, if they are to receive the “food that endures to eternal life”, they “must believe in the one [the Father] has sent.” We pray, in this Mass, for an increase in the gift of faith, that we may always do the work that God wants.

***Prayer of the Faithful:***

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

1. For the Church: that our faith in the Risen Lord may grow stronger each day, and that our works may always bear witness to that faith.

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

1. For an increase in vocations to the priesthood: that God will raise up men from our parish, and from all the parishes of our diocese, to serve His people as priests, feeding them with the Bread of Life.

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

1. For the hungry: that Christians everywhere may respond generously to the needs of those affected by famine, hunger, and drought.

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

1. For our beloved dead: that those nourished with the Body and Blood of the Lord in life, may now be granted a place at the table of God’s children in heaven.

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