**Vocations Week – 2021**

**Day Two**

**Sunday 18th April**

***A reading from the First Letter of St John*** 2:1-5

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who, is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world’s. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone, who says, ‘I know him’ and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God’s love comes to perfection in him.

***St Joseph -- A Man of Faith***

In his recent Apostolic Letter “*Patris Corde*” (With a father’s heart) Pope Francis tells us that Sts Matthew and Luke, the two evangelists who speak most of St Joseph, tell us very little, but enough to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission which God, in his love and mercy, entrusted to him. He was a carpenter who was engaged to be married to Mary. A just man, a man of faith who was ready to carry out God’s will as it was revealed to him in the Jewish Scriptures and in the ways in which God spoke to him in a number of dreams. He was present at the birth of Jesus, and was there when the Shepherds and Wise Men came to adore the new-born King as the representatives of the people of Israel and the people of the rest of the world. At the Presentation, which we celebrate on 2 February, Joseph heard Simeon’s prophecies about Jesus and Mary. Joseph took them both to safety in Egypt, and then home to Nazareth. Some years later, when they were returning from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, having lost Jesus for a few days, he and Mary found him in the Temple, talking with the doctors of the Law. Jesus went home with them, and remained there until he began his public ministry.

**A Calling**

There can never be any question of choosing a vocation: the word “choice” is excluded by the word “vocation,” which means “calling,” a call from God. Therefore, we do not “choose a vocation” but seek to find our vocation, to do all we can to hear God’s voice calling us, to make sure of what he is saying – and then to obey him. Where vocation is concerned God speaks, calls, commands: we do not have to choose, but to listen and obey.

Charles de Foucauld**A Calling,**p36**,** from *Charles de Foucauld: Essential Writings*, edited by Robert Ellsberg.

**Mass**

**Angelus for Vocations**

**Daily Examen**

**Rosary for Vocations: Glorious Mysteries**

**Night Prayer**

**Mass Sunday 18th April**

***Introduction:***

As we continue our journey in this week of prayer for vocations in the Diocese of Derry, we are reminded from our Gospel that the Risen Lord walks among us, that he brings his peace even when our hearts are troubled or anxious. Confident in his living and loving presence among his people, let us turn to him asking for pardon and mercy….

***Prayer of the Faithful:***

**Priest:** Our second reading proclaims that God’s love comes to perfection in those who obey the word of God and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Let us now open our hearts to his word as we bring before him the needs of our families, all those we love and the needs of our world as we pray…

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

1. For Pope Francis, that his example may inspire all of us to consider the humble path of service to which we are called and in turn build up God’s Kingdom of mercy and love.

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

1. For all those who pass on the gift of faith. We remember today those who are called to the vocation and ministry of catechesis and teaching, that with compassionate hearts and a love for divine truth, they may lead others to truly know our Heavenly Father.

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

1. For all those who serve God in political and civic life. That their calling to serve the common good may always be rooted in Christ’s love for all people.

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

1. For the sick. We continue to remember all those who are suffering as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We remember especially all those who are called to the ministry of caring for the sick and housebound. May their witness and devotion to those they serve always be a reminder to us of the infinite and tender love of Christ.

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

1. For all those who are discerning a calling to serve God in his Church. As we approach our annual day of discernment in the Diocese of Derry, we ask the Holy Spirit to place a generosity of heart and an openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who are called.

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

1. For all our beloved dead: May the joy experienced by the disciples as they encountered the Risen Lord be theirs forever.

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

**Priest:**

Loving God, as you opened the minds of the disciples to know you through your word, direct the hearts and minds of your faithful to serve you with the same conviction that captured the hearts and minds of the disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.