

Reflection Saturday 2nd Week Lent - St Joseph Husband of Mary 2022

Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is found in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God, supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From Jesus, he was obviously a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers in general. To those who are adoptive parents, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or a whole family, he is a source of inspiration.

For this reason, it depends on faith, so that it may be a gift. (Romans 4:16)

There is power and truth in the words of this short phrase. These words can serve as a prayer in moments when we want to renew the gift of our commitment to God. Surely Joseph must have felt the sentiments of this short prayer after his dream. When he decided to accept Mary and receive Jesus into his life, he had no clear understanding of these strange happenings. Everything depended on faith.

When he was growing in relationship with the child Jesus, perhaps Joseph sensed that everything was gift and grace. Our lives are full of moments when faith seems to be the only staff we have to lean on. Unable to see the gift enfolded in our faith, we depend on the promises of God. Joseph can be our model and friends at times like this. He experienced such moments to the full. Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB

The faith we share through Abraham and found in Joseph is what unites all believers and Abrahamic Faiths. It links us as family, sharing the same graces and charisms of the love of God and of neighbour. It helps us see the world through the same glasses.

O God, from the tattered scraps of my faith you uncover hidden gifts. Increase my faith.