



Fourth Sunday of Advent -Year A

21st December 2025

“Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory”

WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS EVE: Mass 9.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10.00am

FRIDAY ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS 12.00noon

WEEKEND MASSES: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY VIGIL 7pm

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY: 10.00am

DECEASED: Sinead Coxhill, Ballerin, Eileen Quinn, Omagh

Dick McNeilly, Cushendall

MONTH'S MIND: Annie Murray Parkmore

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary McAuley, Charlie McKillop, Lilia O'Connor, Mary O'Kane, Enneas Black, Alex Murray, Henry Doherty, Mary Hartley, Eamon Hartley, Malachy Quinn.

Thought for today ...

Joseph was a man of few words but decisive and significant actions. His behaviour made a difference. Unfortunately, some of us speak many words but these words are rendered meaningless by our contradictory behaviour. This can easily occur during the days of Christmas when we gather as families and friends. Therefore, let us learn from the example of Joseph. Let us discern and accept joyfully God's will in our lives. And let us pray to Joseph, asking him to help us to do God's will always.

*When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do.
(Mt 1:24)*

Donal Neary SJ

Gospel Reflections for Sundays of Year A: Matthew

www.messenger.ie/bookshop/

The Call to Joseph



In religious terms we would call Joseph ‘*a faithful type of guy*’, observant in religious thought and practice. The visit from the angel tests his faithfulness to God and to Mary. He doesn’t let them down. He was called to be the *carer* of Jesus and Mary and to find a new openness to the mystery of God.

A temptation of religion is to tie things down too much. The law in Joseph’s time was strict – if a woman was pregnant the man would cancel the betrothal, and she might be stoned to death! Joseph went beyond law to love and the mystery of God’s call. Good religion is open to the mystery of life, however life challenges us and calls us. Some of the most open-minded people I have met have been very religious, and some of the most narrow-minded people have also been religious! Like good and bad medicine, there is good and bad in religion.

True religion is open to mystery. We need a church lit with the light of God, as Joseph was. His burden was lifted when he was open to God, to take Mary home as his wife, no matter what others might think. This is the annunciation to Joseph – the word of God from the angel to Joseph in a dream. It opened him to a huge new meaning in life. We accept this word as a central part of our lives, and the next time we meet the word, it will be made flesh.

Look to your own house, and all who live in it.

Imagine the light of Christ in each room and on all the family.

Lord, you are the word of God, made flesh, have mercy on us.