



Solemnity of Saint Joseph – Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Monday 20th March 2017

Keynote: God is among us and has done great thing for us

Second Book of Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16

‘The word of God came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make your sovereignty secure...”’ This promise made to David is to be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus who is of David’s family tribe through Mary his mother. For the Lord also spoke through Nathan, saying to David: *‘I will be a father to him and he a son to me.’* As we know, the birth takes place at Bethlehem the town of David.

Responsorial Psalm 88 [89] – I will sing of the wonderful promises of God

Letter of Paul to the Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

The apostle says: *‘The Promise depends on faith, so that it may be a free gift and available to all Abraham’s descendants... who is the father of us all.’* As scripture says: *‘...I have made you the ancestor of many nations... although it seemed Abraham’s hope could not be fulfilled, he hoped and he believed, and through doing so he did become the father of many nations exactly as he had been promised... this is the faith that was considered as “justifying him”’.* The apostle is inviting us to share the faith and hope of God’s Promise. It brings with it this free gift of justification.

Gospel according to Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24

The evangelist informs us about the ancestry of Jesus in the line of David. *‘Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.’* *‘This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.’* Joseph, we are told: *‘being a man of honour... had decided to divorce her informally... but when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said: “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins”.* When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do.’ How do we respond to the example of Joseph – an individual of honour, who discerns with faith the right thing to do with integrity and trust in the Lord?

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