



MINDFULNESS AND JOY

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE



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The author of the Second Reading for today is letting his community know that no matter what they face, no matter who they are, no matter their shame or their suffering or their obedience or lack thereof, no matter any of this, they will never be alone because God will always be present. In the person of Jesus, God even descends into the depths of Sheol to rescue those who were trapped there.

These Christians faced so many difficulties and the author wanted to encourage them to hold fast and know they can bear it all because God would never leave them alone.

The same is true for us. No matter our circumstances. No matter where we are in life. No matter if we feel connected or disconnected from God or one another, we can trust that God will never leave us alone.

It reminds me of the beautiful poem found on the wall of the Cologne Concentration Camp in Germany. It said in part:

**"I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love,
even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God,
even when he is silent."**

Wherever you are, wherever you go,
God will be with you.



To See Beyond

Early on, at the beginning of the lock down I was lucky enough to be sent a little video clip on WhatsApp. In this, a priest talked about a leaflet that was circulated widely in 1944 around the end of the Second WW, the Chaplet of Mercy. This displayed a litany, and on the reverse, it included a very powerful image of

Christ. The speaker unpacked the idea of the Chaplet: a string of beads that someone wears on their head: a Corona, word developed from Latin that means a Crown. But I thought a crown implies majesty and honour, glitter! This became very relevant when a few days later we started the celebration of the paschal Triduum. And I could not make sense of the idea of majesty, (i.e. Corona) until it dawned on me the following: Jesus explaining to his disciples the concept of 'seeing', really seeing what was going on instead of just staying in the 'concrete'. How the Jews in times of Jesus had this concrete and earthy idea of what a Saviour or liberator was supposed to be or look like and because of that, they really failed to 'see' the grandiosity that they had in front of them. It is then, when I asked myself whether in the Covid-19 times I was just repeating the behaviour of the disciples 2000 years ago but thanks to the Corona connection, perhaps Jesus in his infinite mercy is just inviting us to 'see' beyond the concrete, and with his guidance and help just carry our own personal cross along with him.

-Rebeca Robertson



Remember Holy Joe

Your faithful stewardship throughout this crisis has enabled us to fulfil our mission without interruption. And so, I continue to encourage you to remember that St. Joseph's mission is vital to our community now, and will be all the more needed in the weeks and months to come.

I'm inviting you to join me in giving a special Easter offering online, as an act of faith and thanksgiving for the abundant life that you experience through the many ministries of Holy Joe. Your generosity makes this abundant life possible for so many others, both near and far—especially in this season of deep need. I am grateful for your generosity and for your continued faithfulness to God, in such a time as this.

Please visit our website and the portal 'Donate to Our Parish' and download the forms you need and make your offerings.

NOVENA

PRAYER TO
ST. JOSEPH



O GLORIOUS ST. JOSEPH, you who have power to render possible things that are for us impossible, come to our aid in our present trouble and distress. Take this important and difficult affair under your particular protection that it may end happily. O dear St. Joseph, all our confidence is in you, since you are so powerful with Jesus and Mary. Let it not be said that we would invoke you in vain. Amen.



Remember and Pray

- + Francesco Stabile
- + Annie Catherine Canning
- + Catherine Carmel Conroy
- + Patrick Hugh Farrell
- + Isabel Pycroft



BENEDICTION

Loving God, our world and lives have changed in ways we could not have imagined.

We assume you are with us,
yet uncertainty sometimes smothers our hope.

We are aware of your message proclaimed throughout scripture to "fear not," but how can we not be afraid?

We believe in the Holy Spirit of truth, which knows no bounds or distance, yet we often feel isolated, stagnant and lonely.

Remind us over and over, O God, of your love for us and our love for you.

Remind us that the natural expression of this love is to trust you and share that love as we follow in your way.

Remind us of the space that is opened in our souls to receive your vibrant Spirit when we put our faith in you.

And stand by us, we pray, as we dare to take steps to love, to have courage, and to open ourselves to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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