



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

“Every generation of Heaven, earth and the parts beneath the earth bow down at the name of Jesus; and to you, O wondrous Joseph, was the Child Jesus obedient as to His Father. But we, marveling at the Lord's great condescension toward you, cry out to Him: ALLELUIA!”

It seemed appropriate to begin this Christmas Newsletter by quoting the Ninth Ikos of the Akathist Hymn in Honour of Saint Joseph, as we begin with great joy the Year of Saint Joseph which was proclaimed by Pope Francis on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, to mark the 150th year of the solemn declaration of St Joseph as the Patron of the

Universal Church by Pope Pius IX In his decree *Quemadmodum Deus*. How fitting it was to begin the Year of Joseph on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Our joy can never surpass that of Our Blessed Mother for the honour given to her beloved and most chaste spouse, who though not immaculately conceived was immaculately chaste; Joseph, the virgin - father of Jesus, the protector and guardian of the Child God, the promoter of the glory of Christ, who loved Him with a love only surpassed by that of the Virgin Mary. “...Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ” (Mt. 1:15).

We can learn a lot about Christmas through the life of St Joseph. He was foremost a “Just man”, who always did the Will of God, a God-fearing and holy man. The virtues and goodness of Joseph all stem from his solid faith in God. Faith is mostly needed to understand and appreciate the great mystery of Christmas. Although celestial Angels appeared to the Shepherds to announce to them the birth of the Messiah, and the Magi were led to the manger by a star, they entered not a kingly house but a lowly stable to worship the Child King in a manger. His appearance was not different from that of other babies and his parents were lowly and poor, but Faith penetrated the ordinary to behold the majestic presence of God in human flesh. The mystery of Christmas is an invitation to approach the Eucharist in faith, a faith which tells us that the white spotless Host is the same infant who was born in Bethlehem “House of Bread”

and laid in a manger (a sign He is to be eaten). We Believe that Jesus is truly and wholly present in the Eucharist because He himself says: "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35) and, "Take and eat; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26). "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink" (John 6:55). The faith which impels Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and Magi to worship a helpless infant is the same faith that impels us to worship the Eucharist. "O come, let us Adore Him."



In this Year of St. Joseph we can turn to him to teach us how to adore the Infant Jesus in the Eucharist, he who after Mary was His most perfect adorer. As he defended and protected Jesus and Mary, may he defend and protect the Church from all her enemies and from every attempt to suppress the celebration and reception of the Eucharist, her very Life, Source and Summit. May the birth of Jesus renew our Eucharistic Faith, Hope and Love and strengthen us in these times of trial and hardship. The Eucharist is our confidence, sure refuge and stronghold. In and through It we will be delivered from coronavirus and every pestilence and will be liberated from fear and anxiety.

We would like to thank all our friends and benefactors for your kind support during this difficult year. With your generous help we were able to install a heating system in the chapel and repair some parts of the roof, but a lot of work still needs to be done. We keep you all in our prayers before the Eucharistic Lord and pray that He may bring an end to the Coronavirus. If you would like to make a donation to us by cheque, please make it payable to Benedictine Monastery. For online donations please visit our website at: <https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/tyburnlargs>.

We enclose a booklet of prayers and devotion to St. Joseph that contains the *Akathistos Hymn to Saint Joseph*. We would like to end with a quotation from *Quemadmodum Deus*: "Him whom countless kings and prophets had desired to see, Joseph not only saw but conversed with, and embraced in paternal affection, and kissed. He most diligently reared Him... Because of this sublime dignity which God conferred on his most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph."

We wish you all a grace-filled and joyous Christmas and New Year.

The Tyburn Nuns, Benedictine Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, Largs