

## Year of St. Joseph (Part 7)

This year of St. Joseph gives us the opportunity to focus on St. Joseph a little more. In his letter of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis using a number of headings, describes St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

**St. Joseph as a beloved father** devoted himself completely to Jesus and Mary and to their well-being and protection.

**St. Joseph as a tender and loving father** watched Jesus grow 'in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and with people.' Luke 2:52. In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God.

**St. Joseph, an obedient father.** In response to his dreams, Joseph did what he had to do to keep Jesus and Mary safe. By his actions, Joseph declared his own 'yes' to God's will as Mary had done at the Annunciation. 'Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly.' Pope St John Paul II

**St. Joseph, an accepting father.** 'Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words.... Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak,' (With a Father's Heart)

**St. Joseph, a creatively courageous father.** He protected the family from danger and brought them to safety. 'At the end of every account in which Joseph plays a role, the Gospel tells us that he gets up, takes the child and his mother, and does what God commanded him. (cf. Mt1:24:2:14, 21). Indeed, Jesus and Mary his mother are the most precious treasure of our faith.' (With a Father's Heart)

**St. Joseph, a working father.** 'St. Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's labour.' (With a Father's Heart)

**St. Joseph, a father in the shadows.** 'In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father; he watched over him and protected him.' (With a Father's Heart)

In writing this letter Pope Francis's aim is to increase our love for St. Joseph, to encourage us to ask his prayer on our behalf and to imitate the example of his life.

### St. Joseph Prayer Cards.

**A donation of 25cent for each card is suggested to help cover the cost of printing the cards** which were printed by the Carmelite Nuns, Tallow, Co. Waterford. (Tallow Carmel) A short explanation is given with each card.

## **St. Mary's Parish Dungarvan**



### **July 2021**

### **The Angelus**

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary...  
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, Pray for us  
sinners,

Now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord...

Be it done unto me according to thy word.

*Hail Mary...*

And the Word was made flesh...

And dwelt among us.

*Hail Mary....*

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God...

That we may be made worthy of the  
promises of Christ.



### **Celebrating 71 years of the Angelus Bell on Radio**

The broadcasting of the Angelus Bell celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in this August. It was first broadcast on August 17, 1950, on Radio Eireann from the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin. When RTE One opened on New Year's Eve 1961, the Angelus was broadcast, accompanied by religious images. These images were replaced in 2009 by non-religious images which encourage reflection and a pause for prayer. It is claimed that the three-three-three-nine format of bell strokes best suits the recitation of the prayers of the Angelus. A devotion in the honour of the Word made Flesh, it takes its name from the first word of the Prayer: Angelus means Angel.

### **Newer Concluding Prayer**

Let us pray: Lord fill our hearts with your love and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son as man, so lead us through his suffering and death to the glory of his resurrection, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen

### **Older Concluding Prayer**

Let us Pray: Pray fourth we beseech thee, O' Lord, thy grace into our hearts that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## **St. Declan of Ardmore. Feastday: July 24<sup>th</sup>.**

### **July 25, 2021: First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.**

I have decided to establish World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be held throughout the Church every year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Jesus' "Grandparents". ***It is important for grandparents to meet their grandchildren and for grandchildren to meet their grandparents, because—taking strength from their grandparents will go forward and prophesy.***

To express the closeness of God and of the church to every older person, Pope Francis has chosen "I am with you always" from the Gospel of Matthew as the theme for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

***"'I am with you always' is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith."***

### **Prayer for Grandparents**

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary,  
The daughter of SS. Joachim and Anne.

Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them!

They are a source of enrichment for families

For the Church and for all of society. Support them!

As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families

Strong pillars of Gospel Faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals

Living treasures of sound religious traditions.

Make them teachers of Wisdom and Courage.

That they may pass on to future generations

The fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.

AMEN.

'The cult and veneration of St. Declan as the leading and most important follower of Christ in the Déise region is very strong. In the 18th century, the great poet of the Déise, Tadhg Gaelach Ó Súilleabhán, wrote a poem concerning the pattern of Ardmore. Its title is 'A Dheagláin Órga Onóraigh, Easpaig'. The annual celebration of Declan and his cell and burial place in Ardmore is the oldest Christian celebration of all in the Déise country. It has attracted travellers and visitors for many centuries.

From his Vita (life) we learn that he was born in Drumroe, a townland not far from Lismore and beside the Bóthar na Naomh, the Road of the Saints, which connects Lismore and Ardmore. He was the son of Earc, one of the great Déise chieftains and Deithidhe was his mother. By choosing Drumroe as his birth place, the biographer of the saint was ensuring that the saint who founded the monastery of Ardmore had also strong connections with the great monastic city of Lismore. His baptism we are told, was administered by Colmán, perhaps the patron of Kilcolman near Ardmore or Colmán of Lismore.

The name Colmán is to be found in so many lists of saints in the Deise region that one can not be sure. Declan is said to have been educated by Dioma a learned member of the Dál gCais (Ua Bhriain) dynasty.

According to the Vita, Declan journeyed to Rome where he was ordained bishop by the pope himself. He was said to have met the great Patrick on his way to Rome who was also later ordained a bishop and also sent back to Ireland.

Declan established himself at Ardmore but he travelled throughout Munster and struck up a lasting friendship with Bishop Ailbe of Emly who was to become the leader of the Munster church. Most of the Vita Deaglani is taken up with miracles in order to establish his eminence as the first great saint of the Déise and acknowledged by God as a very special person.

When Declan died his body was brought back to the monastery of Ardmore and buried in the little church called to this day the Beanachán near what later became the cathedral church of the diocese of Ardmore'.

*Michael G. Olden: The Faith Journey of the Déise People, pp 4-5.*

### **Prayer to St. Declan.**

God our Father, we give thanks for the life of St. Declan who sowed the seeds of faith among the people of the Déise. We praise his name. We visit the places made holy by his presence. We walk in his footsteps, on the path taken by generations of pilgrims as we journey to the Father's House. We pray that we may step out in faith, hope and love, walking with Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit on our journey home.

We make this prayer through Christ your Son, our Lord. *Amen*