

Christmas St Joseph 2023

Joseph set out from the Town of Nazareth

There is real beauty, humility, and humanity in the person of St Joseph.

The Husband of Mary the mother of Christ Jesus.

So often merely an addition to the Christmas story

So often the good man who facilitates and is then ignored as a consequence of the enormity of what is happening.

This Christmas let us focus upon the person who did what was asked

Who worked with the reality of what was there

Who loved not simply in words, but in actions.

As this great Saint looked down upon the Christ child what did he feel?

All babies are miraculous, the wonder of birth and new life always extraordinary

But his place his role.

How did he feel?

This child was beyond him and yet the protective love of a Father is seen down the centuries

He understood carpentry, the need to find shelter, the anxiety

Then the visits of shepherds

Talk of visions of angels

And visits of Kings

All beyond a natural human understanding

So he will have been afraid

But he lived with his fear

He worked with his fear

He was faithful

He was beautiful

This young woman before him Mary
Was more than he could understand.

Who was she?

He had taken her to be his wife

Again after a vision of Angels

She was vulnerable

Having given birth in conditions that poor

The conception of the child again beyond him

But she needed him

We needed him

So without any real understanding

But he lived with his fear

He worked with his fear

He was faithful

He was beautiful

St Joseph the husband of Mary

The mother of Christ Jesus

When the doubts arose in his heart

When it seemed to be utter disaster

Outside his control

This man lived with his fears

This man let go of what was beyond him

He remained true to self

He remained true to this woman that he loved

He took the Christ child to his heart

And taught the son of God

What is meant by the word Father

But he lived with his fear

He worked with his fear

He was faithful

He was beautiful

Your life and my life

Will probably not be recalled in two thousand years

Your life and my life will be of real beauty if we accept humility, humanity

Like St Joseph not so important

But to those who love you

Be they on earth or in eternal reward

To those you have served

Be they dependant now or beyond your care

To yourself

Immersed in today's challenge

Live with your fear

Work with your fear

Be faithful to that which is true

Be beautiful

Be beautiful

Like St Joseph

Be beautiful

St Joseph pray for us