
19 Monday

MONDAY Solemnity of St JOSEPH

2 Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16
Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29
Romans 4: 13, 16-18, 22
Matt. 1: 16, 18-21, 24
or Luke 2: 41 -51

Joseph's claim to fame, his greatest title, is simply that he was the husband of Mary the mother of Jesus. We know almost nothing else about his life and death. Scripture says he was a "just" man, meaning he was a person of complete faith in God, holy because he responded totally to God's choice of him. Scripture puts no words in Joseph's mouth, even when he's received angelic messages of support or of instruction and warning. He simply accepts the Word that speaks in his heart, and acts on it.

What did Joseph feel and think in his heart about the events he was caught up in? He was a village carpenter, but also himself a descendant of King David whose house and line the Lord had promised would last forever. He heard the son born of Mary would also inherit David's throne. But now there was a usurper king in power in Galilee, Herod, who caused danger, difficulties and suffering for Joseph and his precious wife and son.

Mary's pregnancy, and her going off to visit Elizabeth for some months must have puzzled him too. Did he ever visit Zachary, who'd lost his power of speech? How did he feel about what Simeon and Anna said about the child he and Mary presented in the temple, and what they said to her? And what about the time they "lost" their child in the temple?

From Joseph may we learn what it is to accept God's word in silent trust, and act upon it in company with Jesus and Mary. For, he is the 'good and faithful servant' invited to share in the joy of his Lord.