

Reflections and Prayers for week beginning 19th March

Monday 19th March (Feast of St Joseph)

“Throughout his life, Joseph humbly accepts God’s will, even though at times it is difficult.” In this way, Saint Joseph “shows great tenderness, which is not a mark of the weak but of those who are genuinely strong, fully aware of reality and ready to love and serve in humility.” Pope Francis (*Laudato Si’* #242)

Prayer:

Lord, help us to gladly accept what you ask of us, and care for the most vulnerable members of our family, near and far. St Joseph, pray for us.

Tuesday 20th March

During their forty years journey, the Israelites grew impatient in the barren desert. They lose sight of God’s plan: to lead them from slavery to true freedom. Sometimes, it does feel as though we are in a wilderness with no end in sight, and we are tempted to lose hope, and our faith in God.

Prayer:

Lord, strengthen us in times when we are tempted to walk away from you. Lead us to bear fruits of holiness, and trust in the path you lead for us. Amen.

Wednesday 21st March

Pope Francis says, “Every heart wounded by sin – as each one of us has – must undertake a journey of healing in order to be more like ‘our heavenly Father who is

perfect’.” Let us pray we might find it in our hearts to love all those who hurt us.

Prayer:

God of all, give us the grace to pray for those who we feel have done wrong. Change our hearts so we may see them as you do. May you embrace them with your love. Amen.

Thursday 22nd March

It takes great courage to speak the truth when all around there’s fear and hatred.

Prayer:

God of justice, give us the courage, we pray, to speak your truth. We pray for our sisters around the world who are trafficked. May we work together to build your kingdom, where every enslaved person is set free. Amen.

Friday 23rd March

“The human misery created by such massive displacement of men, women and children under the threat of death is getting worse every day...” Francis Atul Sarker, Caritas Bangladesh.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you call us to live in solidarity with the poorest amongst us. May we be grateful for the simple gifts we are given. Amen

NEXT WEEK IS HOLY WEEK