

Dear Parish Family,

Today (Friday 1st May) is the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the quiet faithful presence in the life of Jesus who provided security and guardianship for Jesus and his mother Mary. The Feast Day today reminds us of the dignity of human labour: to use our time and talents in providing for family, building up our community and contributing positively to the society in which we live. We do this through both volunteer and paid work, as we co-operate with God's unfolding act of creation, thereby flourishing ourselves and providing the opportunity for others to flourish as well.

In these times of economic uncertainty, as unemployment queues grow, we are given a stark reminder of the security which comes with paid work, and how financial insecurity can impact on our sense of self-worth. It is vital to remember that our true worth comes from our dignity as beloved children of God. We are born of love and for love, and the very work of loving our family, our friends and our community is where our true worth lies. If that work is recognised with payment that is nice, but payment is not the measure of all things. For example, vacuuming the house or changing the nappy of a little baby, these actions can be resented because they are unpaid, or they can be celebrated and evoke a degree of gratitude and joy for the doer of the work because these are acts of loving service to our loved ones, and what a privilege it is to serve those we love!

Those are easy words when I am not the one trying to pay the mortgage and feed my family. Let us all grow in awareness of the need for a compassionate society that always seeks to ensure all its members are cared for as we respond to the needs of those beyond our immediate family with generosity and compassion, especially in these days of turmoil and uncertainty. I again highlight the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in our community, and encourage those in need to avail themselves of this service. Just as the banks have eased the pressure on families in hardship through the suspension of mortgage payments, so too family stress can be eased through the rental support or food packages offered by Vinnies. Do not let pride prevent you from accepting this gift of love from our community if you are in need.

Pope Francis has written two prayers which can be prayed by themselves or added to the end of the rosary during this month of May. I commend them to you. They are too lengthy to include here but can be found on our parish website or by going to <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/pope-encourages-faithful-to-pray-rosary-at-home.html>. Copies are also available on the "Reading Table" outside the Parish Office at Corpus Christi.

Let us continue to look out for and reach out to one another in appropriate ways as we navigate our way through this extraordinary health crisis. Let us continue to pray for those communities around the globe who are being devastated by this virus, and let us be grateful for the strong leadership and committed health professionals who have tried so hard to limit the impact of this virus in our local community.

Fr Richard

Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pet 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12