

The Saint Raphael Link

Some Periodic Ramblings of the Prior

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Dear Members,

“Daddy, says a young child, how much do you earn an hour?” The father says: Don’t bother me now, I’m tired.” “But Daddy, just tell me please! The father finally gives up and replies: “Twenty pounds.” “Okay, Daddy,” the boy continues, “Could you loan me ten pounds?” The father yells: “So that was the reason you asked how much I earn? Now, go to bed and don’t bother me anymore!”

That night the father thinks over what he said and starts feeling guilty. Finally, he goes to his son’s room and says: “Here’s the money you asked for earlier,” “O Thanks, Daddy!” replies the boy as he takes the money. Then he reaches under his pillow and brings out some more money. “Now I have enough!” says the boy to his father, “Daddy, I can now buy one hour of your time?”

Sunday’s gospel has a message for this man and for all of us, and the message is this: that we need to invest more of our time in our family life.

Jesus at the age of twelve was expected to make his bar mitzvah, the ceremony of legal adulthood. From then on he was required to keep the law and make the annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem like any other Jewish man.

One-way today’s teenagers celebrate their coming of age is to go out and do those things that the law forbids them to do. We all know that our children are growing up when they stop telling parents where they are going or for that matter, where they have been.

As we can see from the Gospel (Luke 2:41-52), Jesus was no exception. To celebrate his coming of age he attended the Temple Bible class without informing his parents. When his parents caught up with him after two days of searching for him everywhere, all he told them was, “*Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?*” (Luke 2:49). Even holy families do have their occasional tensions and misunderstandings. The most puzzling part of the story, however, is the way it ends: “*Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them*” (v.51). The twelve-year old Jesus already knew that his mission was to be in his Father’s house and to be about his Father’s business. From the test-run he did in Jerusalem earlier that day, it was clear that he was already capable of doing it very well, because “*all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers*”

The puzzle then is this: If Jesus, at the age of twelve, was ready to begin his public mission, and was evidently well prepared for it, why would he go down with his parents and spend the next eighteen years in the obscurity of a carpenter’s shed only to begin his public ministry at the age of thirty?

Were those eighteen years wasted years? Certainly not! In a way that is hard to understand, Jesus’ hidden life in Nazareth

was as much a part of his earthly mission as his public life. We are reminded that it was at this time that “*Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour*” (v.52). And when we reflect on the fact that for every one year of his public life Jesus spent ten years in family life, then we shall begin to understand the importance and priority he gave to family life.

We each have two lives, a private or family life and a public or professional one. These two lives should be in harmony but very often they are in tension. Whereas Jesus resolved the tension by giving priority to his private life, we, unfortunately, often try to resolve it by giving priority to our professional life, leaving our family life to suffer.

There is a story of a man who thought the only way he could prove his love for his wife and family was to work hard. “To prove his love for his wife, he swam the deepest river, crossed the widest desert and climbed the highest mountain. She divorced him. He was never home

Our Mass for the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus reminds and challenges us to value and invest in our private life with our families.

Jesus knew the life-work balance. How about you? Amen.

+*Geoffrey* – GRAND PRIOR



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Guess the Locations

1. Ripon Cathedral
2. Brompton Oratory, London

Cook's Corner:

BEEF STROGANOFF

Ingredients

Serves: 5

600g stewing steak chopped into ½ inch cubes

1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup (not a cheap brand)

200ml milk

100-200g closed cup mushrooms sliced thickly

2 medium onions chopped

2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

150g garlic & herb cream cheese

5 portions fusilli or tagliatelle pasta (size & type depending on appetite!)

60 ml soured cream (optional)

Method:

Add steak, onions, mushrooms, mushroom soup, milk and Worcestershire sauce to slow cooker and cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 4-5 hours.

You do not need to add extra liquid for the condensed soup, this is what the milk is for. An hour before finish, add the cream cheese and stir well to dissolve.

Cook pasta according to packet instructions when stroganoff is done.

Serve stroganoff over pasta (add sour cream on top if desired)

GUESS THE LOCATIONS:

1.



2.



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

St Matthew's Gospel tells about the Magi's Visit to the Messiah
(St Matthew 2: 7-12)

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it

rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, which represents Kingship, frankincense which represents worship, and myrrh which represents death. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

It does seem quite clear from reading St Matthew's Gospel that the Magi didn't visit the crib at Bethlehem, but were led by the star to a 'House', back in Galilee where the family were then living.

Jesus was brought up in Galilee and of course became known as 'Jesus of Nazareth'.

Ten facts about the Feast of the Epiphany

- ▶ The three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.
- ▶ Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honour of Christ and the three Kings' visit.
- ▶ Whoever finds the small statue of a baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de Reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.
- ▶ In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three Kings' horses.
- ▶ According to Greek Orthodox Church's traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.

► In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and the men dive in - competing to get to it first.

► In Venice a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 70s has been incorporated in the celebrations of Epiphany Day.

► In Prague, there is a traditional Three Kings swim to commemorate Epiphany Day at the Vltava River.

► In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the Three Kings' Day tradition with an annual parade for more than three decades. Thousands take part in the procession featuring camels, colourful puppets and floats. The day's activities involve singing holiday carols called Aguinaldo's.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to the Lion Rampant in Scotland, who have recently raised money for the provision of a public defibrillator. The equipment will be available outside the Masonic Hall in Inverurie.



Carols Around the Tree:



On Christmas Eve, the Prior led a service of Carols around the Tree at Homesands House in Southport. He is still trying to work out

how one person scored 21 at the Christmas Quiz which only consisted of 20 questions!

St Martin at Sees Conclave



Eight members of the Order enjoyed a Christmas visit to Ripon in North Yorkshire. There they attended the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Ripon Minster followed by a convivial meal at the Prima Restaurant in Kirkgate.



Greetings for the New Year 2019

The Grand Master and his Officers sends their very best wishes to all Members and Friends of the Order for a very Happy New Year.



The Healing Teaching
& Chivalric Order of
St Raphael

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