

## 1<sup>st</sup> May Commemoration of St Joseph the Worker

Today, I offered the Mass at the altar of St Joseph in St Patrick's church. This commemoration was instituted in an attempt to counter the Marxist view of society. From the encyclical on human labour, *Rerum novarum* of Pope Leo XIII to the present, the Popes have been addressing the need for justice in society.

On another day, I will summarise a reflection from both a scientific and social justice perspective that I found on the website of the English Jesuits.

### First Reading Acts 9:1-20

"Ananias said, 'Lord, I have heard from many people about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your holy people in Jerusalem.' The Lord replied, 'Go, for this man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel. I myself will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'"

### Gospel Reading Jn 6:52-59

"As the living Father sent me and I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will also draw life from me."

### REFLECTION:

Having read aloud the gospel passage, as I continued with the liturgy of the Eucharist I was very conscious both of the privilege that I (always) have of presiding at the celebration of the Eucharist and of our parishioners' experience of an enforced fast from the Eucharist. I pray that your spiritual communion will bring you closer each day into union with the Blessed Trinity.

The figure of Paul fascinates me always. The transformation of a murderer of followers of the Way into one who will suffer much for the Name is a continuing source of wonder.

Our gracious God is seeking out sinners – myself first of all – with the same subtlety and sensitivity that he showed to Saul whom we venerate at St Paul.

*Be not afraid.*