

One Quiet Man

A new hymn to St Joseph

Music: Rowland Huw Pritchard (1811-1887) Hyfrydol Metre 87 87 D

Lyrics: Br. Michael Herry fms, with special thanks to Patricia Murray and Br Anthony Hunt fms for their interest and helpful suggestions.

Verse 1.

Quiet man of humble service,
Grafted onto faith in God.
Ever list'ning, ever watchful,
Man of dreams, yet action-shod.
Joy-filled plans you shared with Mary,
Youthful love in fullest flight,
Till God's deeper plans unfolded:
Then the plunge into the night!

Verse 2.

Faithful still as spouse of Mary,
She with infant at the breast.
Setting out by night for Egypt,
There as refugees to rest.
Yet another dream then summoned:
'Safely home return again.'
Joseph, ever open, trusting,
Faithful husband, guardian.

Verse 3.

Joseph, father, guide and mentor
Help us seek the things that last:
Love of fam'ly, care for neighbour,
Honest work, eyes upward cast.
Not for you the gilded idols,
Not for you the crass, the vain.
Joseph, father, guide and mentor,
Help us be the best we can.

Verse 4

In our world of siren voices
Offer now your trusted hand.
Yours the light that guided Jesus,
Taught, advised.....both God and man.
Church's lodestar, silent, faithful,
Bring the life of Christ to birth.
Calloused hands, yet holding gently
Jesus, Lord of Heav'n and Earth.

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Special thanks to Michael D. O'Brien for use of his beautiful painting,

'St Joseph and the Christ Child', from his book

The Art of Michael D. O'Brien Ignatius Press 2018

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Moderato ♩ = 100

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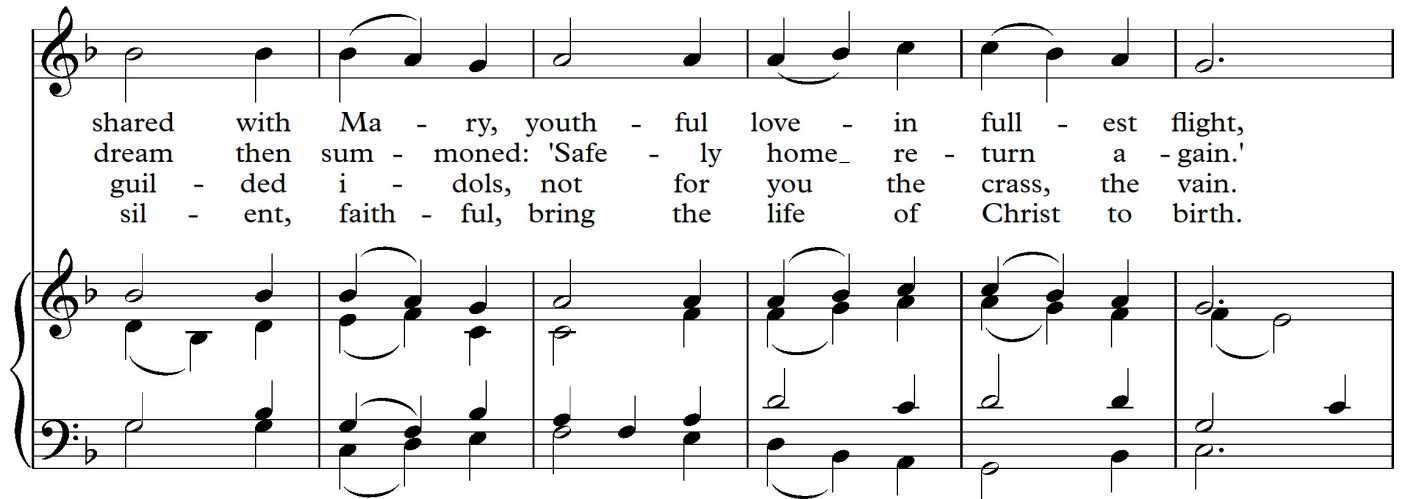
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One Quiet Man

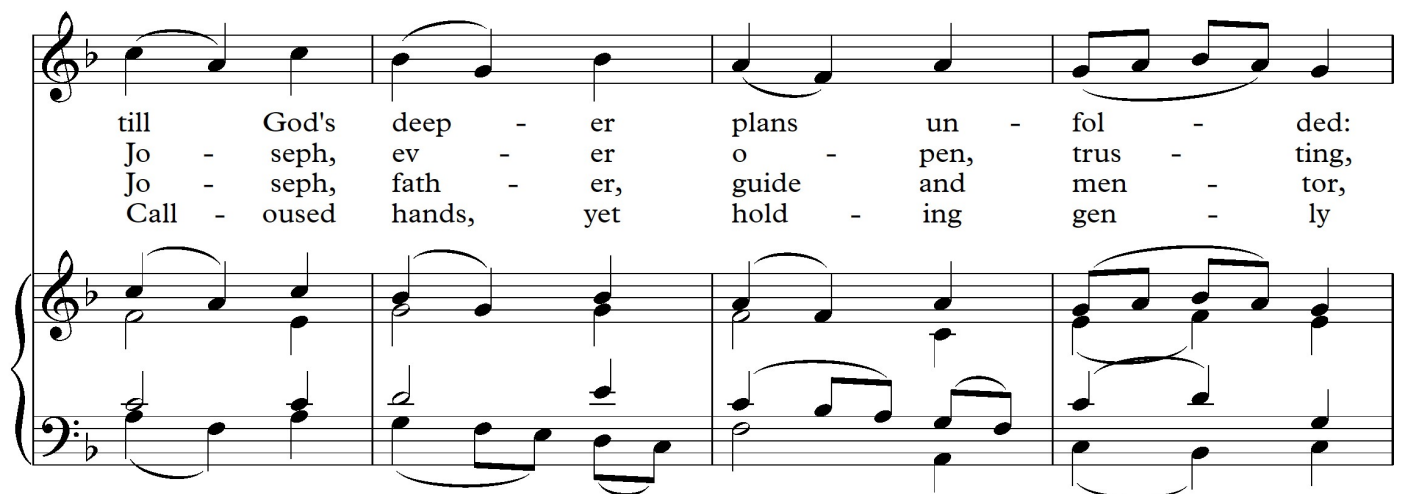
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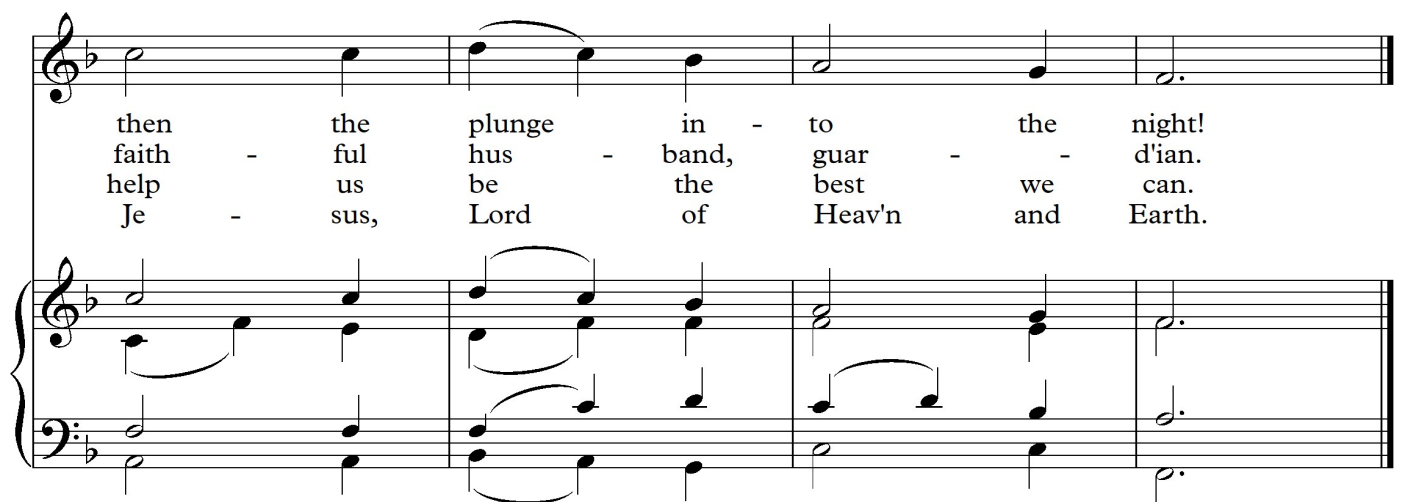
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Dear Friends of Marist Music,

Last December, in his apostolic letter 'Patris corde' ('With a Father's Heart'), Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father proclaimed a 'Year of Saint Joseph' (this year!) which will conclude on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th.

This proclamation seemed to come naturally to Pope Francis, because like his every word and gesture, it came from the heart, the heart of a true father and pastor. This explains his wide appeal and I like to think, particularly to us as Australians. What you see is what you get, and we rightfully admire this quality, even as we live at the same time in an often superficial and celebrity-soaked culture. Pope Francis, and his friend St Joseph, offer us an antidote to that culture. This was some of my thinking behind the new text.

While respecting our Catholic tradition in relation to this great saint, I have tried to take Joseph down from his dusty pedestal and cast him as a real life figure, someone young, a 'quiet achiever', absolutely 'grafted on' to the will of God, deeply in love with Mary, a man of discernment, respect, action and courage, and totally dedicated to the care and love of his family.

Here in the Australian Church we are preparing for the first session of our Plenary Council to begin in Adelaide in October. Let's pray to St Joseph, 'the quiet man', that we become good listeners and discerners of the Holy Spirit in seeking a common path forward for our Church as it continues to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world.

Finally an invitation to visit Marist Music at www.maristmusic.org.au where you will find a host of music resources for prayer and liturgy including very singable settings of the Responsorial Psalms for each Sunday. A final word: Sing loudly, especially during this Easter season, but always from the heart!

God bless, Br Michael Herry 2021 in the Year of St Joseph.

About the music:

The accompaniment suggested is the beautiful Welsh melody known as Hyfrydol, written by Rowland Huw Pritchard 1811-1887. *Ode to Joy* by Beethoven also works well and is easier to sing. Special thanks to Patricia Murray and Br Anthony Hunt fms for their helpful suggestions with the lyrics.