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A letter to our Friends St Joseph 2019

R THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FRIARS

St Rita's Centre, Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton, Devon EX14 1AP

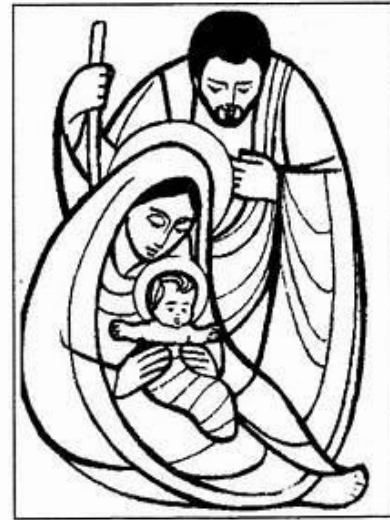
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Registered Charity

Dear Friends,

During the Christmas period I watched an old film favourite called 'The Railway Children'. It is a beautiful bitter-sweet tear-jerker of a film about a loving family at the turn of the 20th century. The children have a happy home until one day the father is falsely accused of espionage. The children fight for his release. One scene that stands out for me is when the oldest daughter is at the railway station and through the steam from the train her father appears released from prison, the girl sees him and calls out, 'daddy, my daddy' and runs to hug him.



It reminded me in a much less dramatic way how we as children would go up to the corner of our street and wait for our daddy to come home from work. Each bus that stopped was scrutinised and the crest of the hill was scanned just in case he had walked. When at last we saw him, we would run to him and he would lift each of us into the air. First question was, 'did you get the comics and sure enough from his back pocket came the Beano or the Dandy. These memories are ones of joy and you can be sure that the Holy Family in Nazareth were filled with joy at the presence of St Joseph. God in his great wisdom had chosen the perfect carers for his only son.

Part of my work in my new parish in London is with the adjoining school. When I am with the children, for the most part happy and go lucky, I am aware that not all the children are as fortunate as I have been. Some homes suffer from problems that alcohol and drugs cause, while others simply do not have enough money to make ends meet. This new year's resolution should be to pray for those families who, whether their own fault or not find themselves in difficulties.

On 11th March we start the novena in honour of St. Joseph. All the petitions you send to us will be remembered in our prayers, and on the feast of St Joseph, 19th March, the Eucharist will be concelebrated by our friars for your intentions. May the good Lord always keep you secure, loved and protected under the guidance of St. Joseph and his Holy Father.

Fr Gerald Wilson. O. A. R.