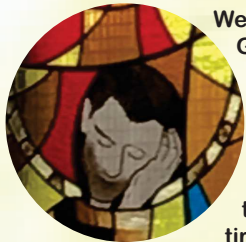


# SAINT JOSEPH'S ANNUNCIATION

## ORIGINAL SCRIPTURE : GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

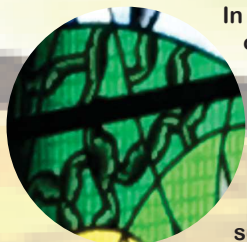
« An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream, saying : « Joseph, son of David, have no fear of taking Mary as your wife ; because that which is in her body is of the Holy Spirit. And she will give birth to a son ; and you will give him the name Jesus ; for he will give his people salvation from their sins. Now all this took place so that the word of the Lord by the prophet might come true. See, the virgin will be with child, and will give birth to a son, and they will give him the name Immanuel, that is, God with us.» »

## UNDERSTANDING ELEMENTS



We know almost nothing about Saint Joseph's life... He does not speak in the Gospel, at any time. Humility, or wish to step down in front of the mystery of the son of Mary ? Joseph is called « the just » in the Palestinian tradition. When he thought of no longer marrying Mary, Saint Joseph had perhaps sensed the greatness of what was happening (the incarnation of Jesus), and did not feel dignified enough to take part in it. But the angel comes to reassure him: « have no fear ». Saint Joseph was a carpenter (hence the table, apron and tools). We can imagine that he might have been often tired, but accustomed to the effort. That is all that makes the Holiness of

Joseph : not acts of greatness, eloquence, victory, or even having watched over the son of God throughout his childhood : but to have accepted what God asked him : he fulfilled the will of the Lord.



In some places you can observe a mixture of glass pieces : some of full color, and others with painted forms with floral pattern. If you look around you in the chapel, you will find these patterns on the old stained glass windows. Indeed, pieces of old stained glass windows of the chapel were saved and integrated in the new ones, in order to keep a harmony of colors and forms. It is also a way of experiencing the continuity between what has happened and what is a new happening : we can rely on past achievements to create something new. This idea of transmission seemed to me quite appropriate in the chapel of a school !



The Angel is not a character acting on his own ; he is often, in the Bible, a messenger of God. He is here accompanied by a dove representing the Holy Spirit. It is he, the Holy Spirit, who acts, through the angel, to allow Joseph to have this dream and understand that he must keep Mary and watch over her and the unborn child.

