

St Joseph

I like the way the saints of all ages
in Renaissance paintings
used to drop in so anachronistically
for a chat with the Holy Family

cups of tea would have been
even more ahistorical

the easy unselfconscious way
they relax, getting together

as I read off the characters
in the gathering from left
to right: Francis Antony
Mary Magdalen the child Jesus
His mother the child John the Baptist
his mother I am taken aback
an instant by the old man pondering
what to say to Elizabeth at the far right
who he? Then I realise: The Great Humble
almost anonymous.

Michael Kelly