

Saint Joseph 19 March



About Saint Joseph

The only knowledge we have about Saint Joseph is what is said of him in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, which describe his role in the birth and early life of Jesus.

We do know that he was a carpenter and that he willingly accepted God's will for him (and Mary and Jesus). He supported Mary and with her, brought up Jesus.

If we look at Jesus in his humanity, we can see that Joseph was a good, caring and responsible father. He is widely venerated as the patron of artisans and is a source of inspiration to those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent.

What can we learn from Saint Joseph's life?

Saint Joseph never lived for himself. Even in the moments of anxiety and fear, he trusted God and did what the Lord asked. His life was full of inconvenience, but that did not stop him being a carpenter, providing for his family, or supporting and caring for Mary and Jesus. On the contrary, on that first Christmas night he went with Mary to Bethlehem for the census. Then, when he learned of Herod's intent to kill all males two years and under, Joseph went with Mary and Jesus into exile in Egypt.

Amid our setbacks and inconveniences, we must look to serving God and neighbour faithfully and willingly.

Joseph being a man of few words, offers us another example – that so often it is better to be silent and to listen than to speak. It is in the silence that we can attentively listen and discern what the Lord is asking of us, and when dialoguing with others we must let them speak also. In this world, which is full of noise and distraction, setting some time each day for silence and away from television and other devices and social media will help us be calm, pray better, be attentive to the needs of others and better listeners to what the Lord is asking of us that day.

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Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession
your Church may constantly watch over
the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 1:16,18-21,24

How Jesus Christ came to be born

Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary;
of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born.
His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph;
but before they came to live together
she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.
Her husband Joseph;
being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity,
decided to divorce her informally.
He had made up his mind to do this
when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.
She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus,
because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'
When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do.

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Antiphon

Well done, good and faithful servant.
Come, share your master's joy.

Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

God the Father of Heaven:

God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

God the Holy Spirit:

Holy Trinity, One God:

Holy Mary:

Saint Joseph:

Renowned offspring of David:

Light of patriarchs:

Spouse of the Mother of God:

Chaste guardian of the Virgin:

Foster-father of the Son of God:

Diligent protector of Christ:

Head of the Holy Family:

Joseph most just:

Joseph most chaste:

Joseph most prudent:

Joseph most strong:

Joseph most obedient:

Joseph most faithful:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, graciously hear us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

pray for us.

pray for us.

pray for us.

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V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: R. Spare us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: R. Graciously hear us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: R. Have mercy on us.
V. The Lord set him over His household, R. And made him prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray:

O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother.

Grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our Intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

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Hymn to Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph, God would choose you
to be the Virgin's spouse,
to work with her and fulfill
God's plan within your house.

With faith and trust you listened
to what God asked of you.

**In your heart you said, "Yes, God –
what you ask I shall do."**

Saint Joseph, God would choose you
foster father to be
of Jesus Christ His own Son,
born of your wife Mary.
When came the night of Christmas,
no room was at the inn,
you both went to the stable,
Christ was born there within.

To save the Christ-Child from death
to Egypt you were sent,
by one of the Lord's Angels,
who knew Herod's intent.

With Mary and the Child you
stayed there till Herod died;
although fear overcame you,
you let God be your guide.

A carpenter by trade, you
worked so you could provide
for Mary and the Christ-Child
until the day you died.
Your life set an example
for workers everywhere
of serving God by working
with diligence and care.

We invoke you as patron
of the Church - One and True:
may we always be faithful
to Christ in all we do;
to stand up for the Gospel
in a world that knows not
the teachings of our Saviour,
by whose Blood we are bought.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Tune: Aurelia 76.76D