

# Mission Together

## St Joseph's Week of Prayer



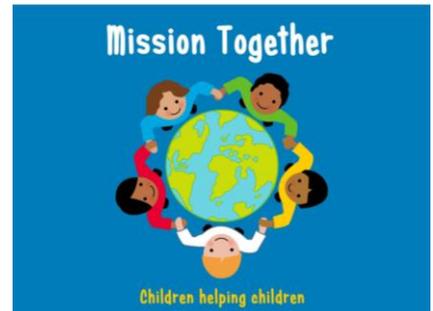
### LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

On Friday 19 March we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, husband of Mary and stepfather to Jesus.

In the week leading up to it we reflect on St Joseph's life and ask him to guide and inspire us to grow closer to God. The themes have been taken from Pope Francis' letter *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*, which declared 2021 the Year of St Joseph.

Our Mission Together Week of Prayer follows the National Novena of St Joseph, which begins on Thursday 10th March and is run by St. Joseph's Missionary Society (The Mill Hill Missionaries) – England's only missionary order.

The order of priests was named after St Joseph because his was a life of love and service – a model for missionary life. The full Novena may be found here: [millhillmissionaries.com/novena/](http://millhillmissionaries.com/novena/)



### HOW TO PRAY THE WEEK OF ST JOSEPH

- Begin on **Monday 15 March**.
- Start each day with the opening prayer on Slide Two.
- On Monday continue with the reflection and prayer on Slide Three; on Tuesday proceed to Slide Four and so on.
- By **Friday 19 March** you will have reflected on four themes of St Joseph's life.
- Each day's prayer and reflection takes no longer than ten minutes.
- The words on the power point slides may be read by pupils.

### SLIDE TWO

Introduction to be read by a teacher/chaplain:

Pope Francis has declared this year, the Year of St. Joseph. He encourages us to ask St Joseph, husband of Mary and stepfather to Jesus, to pray for us.

Pope Francis also wants us to see that during the pandemic there are many ordinary people working very hard to keep us safe and well – people like nurses, doctors, shop workers, farmers, staff in schools.

**Mission Together**

A Week of Prayer  
to St Joseph

Dear St Joseph,  
God trusted you to care for his Son, Jesus  
and Mary, your wife.  
Blessed Joseph,  
We ask you to be like a father to us.  
Guide us and ask God  
to give us hope and courage,  
and to keep us safe from harm.  
St Joseph,  
Pray for us.

missio

Often, we know very little about all these people. We don't know their names or what interests they have. Pope Francis says that they are like St Joseph, as we know very little about him too.

St Joseph did his ordinary daily chores quietly and unnoticed, and courageously cared for Mary and Jesus in times of trouble.

Saint Joseph reminds us that those unknown people, who are working hard to keep us safe and well, are playing an important role in bringing God's love to the world, just as he did.

This week we will think about the qualities St Joseph had, how he coped with the many challenges he faced, and we will ask him to help us in our own lives. Let's start our prayer time together now.

### SLIDE THREE: Monday

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and say together the Opening Prayer (found on Slide Two).

Dear St. Joseph,

God trusted you to care for his Son, Jesus, and Mary, your wife.

Blessed Joseph, we ask you to be like a father to us.

Guide us and ask God to give us hope and courage, and to keep us safe from harm.

St. Joseph **R/** Pray for us.



**Mission Together**

**St Joseph was a hard worker**  
St Joseph taught Jesus that we should always do our best – in our work, our studies and in caring for our world and one another.  
We can do that by using our gifts and talents to help other people, especially those who are suffering and living in poverty.

Let us pray: St Joseph, teach us to use our gifts to serve God, our world and one another. St Joseph, pray for us.

**missio**



**Pupil reader:** Today we remember that St Joseph was a hard worker.

**Pupil reader:** St Joseph taught Jesus that we should always do our best – in our work, our studies and in caring for our world and one another. We can do that by using our gifts and talents to help other people, especially those who are suffering and living in poverty.

**Pupil reader:** Let us spend a little time thinking of ways we can do our best today.

**Pupil reader: Let us pray.** St Joseph, teach us to use our gifts to serve God, our world and one another. St Joseph, pray for us.

End with the Glory Be, followed by the Sign of the Cross.

### SLIDE FOUR: Tuesday

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and say together the Opening Prayer (found on Slide Two).

Dear St. Joseph,

God trusted you to care for his Son, Jesus, and Mary, your wife.

Blessed Joseph, we ask you to be like a father to us.

Guide us and ask God to give us hope and courage, and to keep us safe from harm. St. Joseph **R/** Pray for us.



**Mission Together**

**St Joseph was a loving father**  
St Joseph was chosen by God to be the stepfather to Jesus; watching over him and protecting him as he grew up.  
St Joseph's love for Jesus is like God's love for his children. God never stops watching over us – even when we are grown up.

Let us pray: St Joseph, help us to trust in God's care and protection, especially when we are sad or lonely. St Joseph, pray for us.

**missio**



**Pupil reader:** Today we remember that St Joseph was a loving father.

**Pupil reader:** St. Joseph was chosen by God to be the stepfather to Jesus; watching over him and protecting him as he grew up. St Joseph's love for Jesus is like God's love for his children. God never stops watching over us - even when we are grown up.

**Pupil reader:** Let us spend a little time thinking about God the Father's love for us.

**Pupil reader:** Let us pray. St. Joseph, help us to trust in God's care and protection, especially when we are sad or lonely. St Joseph, pray for us.

End with the Glory Be, followed by the Sign of the Cross.

### SLIDE FIVE: Wednesday

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and say together the Opening Prayer (found on Slide Two).

Dear St. Joseph,  
God trusted you to care for his Son, Jesus, and Mary, your wife.  
Blessed Joseph, we ask you to be like a father to us.  
Guide us and ask God to give us hope and courage,  
and to keep us safe from harm.  
St. Joseph **R/** Pray for us.



**Mission Together**

St Joseph was a missionary of God's love  
By his actions, St. Joseph brought the good news of God's love to other people.  
He showed them what God's love is like.  
He was humble, patient, trusting and he always obeyed God.

Let us pray: St Joseph, show us how we may grow closer to your son, Jesus.  
St Joseph, pray for us.

missio



**Pupil reader:** Today we remember that St Joseph was a missionary of God's love.

**Pupil reader:** By his actions, St. Joseph brought the good news of God's love to other people. He showed people what God's love is like. He was humble, patient, trusting and he always obeyed God.

**Pupil reader:** Let us spend a little time thinking of ways we can share God's love today.

**Pupil reader:** Let us pray. St. Joseph, show us how we may grow closer to your son, Jesus. St Joseph, pray for us.

End with the Glory Be, followed by the Sign of the Cross

### SLIDE SIX: Thursday

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and say together the Opening Prayer (found on Slide Two).

Dear St. Joseph,  
God trusted you to care for his Son, Jesus, and Mary, your wife.  
Blessed Joseph, we ask you to be like a father to us.



**Mission Together**

St Joseph was a man of love and service  
St Joseph always put his family above himself.  
He fled to Egypt with Jesus and Mary to keep them safe when Herod wanted to kill Jesus.  
In a new country, he had to find work and a home for them all.  
Despite many challenges, he accepted his life of service with love, courage and hope.

Let us pray: St Joseph, inspire us to live lives of love and service so that we may bring God's love into the world. St Joseph, pray for us.

missio



Guide us and ask God to give us hope and courage,  
and to keep us safe from harm.  
St. Joseph **R/** Pray for us.

**Pupil reader:** Today we remember that St Joseph was a man of love and service.

**Pupil reader:** St Joseph always put his family above himself. He fled to Egypt with Jesus and Mary to keep them safe when Herod wanted to kill Jesus. In a new country, he had to find work and a home for them all. Despite many challenges, he accepted his life of service with love, courage, and hope.

**Pupil reader:** Let us spend a little time thinking about how we can serve others today.

**Pupil reader:** Let us pray. St Joseph, inspire us to live lives of love and service so that we may bring God's love into the world. St Joseph, pray for us.

End with the Glory Be, followed by the Sign of the Cross.

### SLIDE SEVEN: Friday

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and say together the Opening Prayer (found on Slide Two).

Dear St. Joseph,  
God trusted you to care for his Son, Jesus, and Mary, your wife.  
Blessed Joseph, we ask you to be like a father to us.  
Guide us and ask God to give us hope and courage,  
and to keep us safe from harm.  
St. Joseph **R/** Pray for us.



**Mission Together**

St Joseph was a witness of God's love

Today we remember the St Joseph's priests, and all those men and women who are following St Joseph's example in courageously keeping us safe and well. In our final prayer, we ask St Joseph to bless them and all of us.

Let us pray: St Joseph, thank you for showing us how to trust in God's fatherly love, especially when we are sad, or worried. Teach us to use our gifts to bring God's love into the world, especially to those people who most need our help. St Joseph, pray for us.

missio

**Introduction to be read by a teacher/chaplain:** Happy Feast of St Joseph!

This week we have learned how St Joseph is an example to us of how to live – he was a hard worker, a loving father, a missionary of God's love and he lived a life of love and service.

All over the world there are people, schools and churches named after him. There is even an order of priests called The St Joseph's Missionary Society. They are priests who follow St Joseph's example. They trust that God will guide their steps, as they spend their lives sharing God's love with people who live in poor and remote places. You can see a St Joseph priest on the screen on the top left.

**Pupil reader:** Today we remember the St Joseph's priests, and all those men and women who are following St Joseph's example in courageously keeping us safe and well. In our final prayer, we ask St Joseph to bless them and all of us.

**Pupil reader:** Let us pray. St Joseph, thank you for showing us how to trust in God's fatherly love, especially when we are sad, or worried. Teach us to use our gifts to bring God's love into the world, especially to those people who most need our help.

End with the Glory Be, followed by the Sign of the Cross

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. There are more ways to fundraise than we can possibly count, below are a few ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/>

Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

### **Ideas for Spring term**

**Sponsored give something up:** encourage pupils to give something up for Lent and either donate the money they save or get sponsored to do it. Alternatively, children can offer to take on extra chores or responsibilities in Lent for a donation to Mission Together.

**Egg hunt:** hide small chocolate eggs around your school or playground. Charge pupils to join in for a massive Easter egg hunt! To maximise your fundraising, why not ask all pupils to donate some eggs so you don't need to spend money to buy them?

**Lockdown alternative:** Springtime Scavenger hunt. This is a great outdoor activity. Print off some sheets with springtime things to spot e.g. Snowdrops or crocus, tree buds, birdsong and birds nesting, cherry blossom. You can tailor the items to whatever suits your space and environment. Charge pupils to enter. Either get pupils to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

**Spring flower sale:** everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents or as Easter gifts?

**Lockdown alternative:** Lent through a Lens. Run a photo competition for KS2. Challenge pupils to capture images of springtime. Charge for entry and provide a prize for the winner(s). You could even introduce different categories e.g. wildlife, nature, people. You could even have a category for grown up competitors!

**Easter bonnet competition:** charge pupils to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous fashionista creations! Alternatively, you could get everyone involved in egg painting or Easter cake designs, and sell them after for extra fundraising.

