

**A Para-Liturgy to celebrate the
Solemnity of St Joseph**

We Gather –

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Pope Francis has written a special letter to the whole Church called 'Patris Corde' -With a Father's heart. He has asked the whole Church throughout the world to dedicate 2021 as the Year of St Joseph.

Pope Francis' letter reflects on St Joseph *'the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who nonetheless played a unique role in the history of our salvation.'*

Pope Francis compares St Joseph to the many people who have helped us throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. Those who might go unnoticed; the nurses, carers, refuse workers and shop assistants.

As we celebrate His Feast day today, we ask for his intercession as we imitate him in our everyday life to accept God's plan and to work humbly for the building up of God's Kingdom here on earth.

We pray especially for the parishioners, children and staff of the schools who share St Joseph as their patron saint.

Pope Francis reflects on the daily work of St Joseph by saying that he was *"A1 carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,."* We pray for all families who are suffering at the moment as a result of unemployment or poverty.

We open the scriptures now and hear of St Joseph's faith and trust in God... as we listen, we think about the areas of our own lives that we might need courage to face challenges and difficulties.

We Listen-

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 2:13-15

An angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said,

“Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave.”

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died.

This was done to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

We Respond-

We don't hear St Joseph asking any questions of God in the Bible. We read that God speaks to Him through His dreams and St Joseph listens and acts on God's words...

St Joseph devotes his entire life to caring for Our Lady and Jesus. St Joseph puts aside his own plans to do the will of God.

As we pause for a moment... we think about whether we listen to God's instructions in our own lives? Do we listen carefully and do as we are told?

(Some quiet reflection)

A Litany to St Joseph *(Children's version)*

God the Father,

have mercy on us.

God the Son,

have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God,

have mercy on us.

Holy Mary

Pray for us

St. Joseph

Pray for us

Light of all Fathers

Pray for us

Husband of Our Lady

Pray for us

Faithful protector of Mary

Pray for us

Foster father of the Son of God

Pray for us

Loving protector of Jesus

Pray for us

Head of the Holy Family

Pray for us

St Joseph, wise and loving

Pray for us

St Joseph, brave and humble

Pray for us

We Go Forth –

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.

Amen

St. Joseph, Pray for us.

We wish you all a very happy feast day!

May God Bless us and keep us safe.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, ***Amen***