

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen
St Mary's, Huntly Street, Inverness
Novena to St Joseph
Wednesday 10 March > Thursday 18 March



The Beuronese school of artistic expression is a movement of the modern era attempting to make a continuous connection between beauty, truth and the necessary role of these in liturgy and prayer. Here we see a Beuronese nativity painted by the Monks of Conception Abbey in Missouri.

Saint Joseph, depicted with the staff and the lily, kneels in humble adoration. He is the mirror image of the Virgin and like her he worships in purity and faith. Above him are the angels bearing the message,

'Gloria in excelsis Deo'.

Stylized and idealized, this image speaks to our developed understanding of Joseph as a guardian with a profound and important role. Artistically akin to the earliest icons, these much more recent depictions see Saint Joseph as a fatherly figure, intercessor, and protector of the Church.

St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church :

QUEM AD MODUM DEUS, Decree of Pope Pius XI declaring St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, 8 December, 1870

“Him whom countless kings and prophets had desired to see, Joseph not only saw but conversed with, and embraced in paternal affection, and kissed. He most diligently reared Him whom the faithful were to receive as the bread that came down from heaven whereby they might obtain eternal life”

REDEMPTORIS CUSTOS, Apostolic Exhortation of Pope St. John Paul II on The Person and Mission of St. Joseph in the Life of Christ and of the Church, 15 August 1989

“St. Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood”

The Year of St Joseph : Patron of the Church



Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph Tuesday in honour of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.

The year began on The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on 8 Dec 2020, and it will conclude on 8 Dec 2021, according to a decree authorized by the Pope. The decree said that Pope Francis had established a Year of St. Joseph so

that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God's will."

In addition to the decree, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter dedicated to the foster-father of Jesus.

This Letter is called *Patris corde* ("With a father's heart") and in it the Holy Father writes that he wanted to share some "personal reflections" on the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic," he said, noting that many people had made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect others.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,".

Pope Francis has promoted devotion to St. Joseph throughout his pontificate.

He began his Petrine ministry on 19 March, 2013, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and dedicated the homily at his inauguration Mass to the saint.

"In the Gospels, St. Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love," he said.

On 1 May, 2013, the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the Holy Father issued a decree instructing that the name of St. Joseph should be inserted into Eucharistic Prayers II, III, and IV.

During an Apostolic Visit to the Philippines in 2015, Pope Francis explained why he kept an image of the saint on his desk.

"I would also like to tell you something very personal,"... "I have great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength."

“On my table I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!”

At his general audience on 18 March 20 when the Pandemic was sweeping through Europe, Pope Francis urged Catholics to turn to St. Joseph in times of adversity.

“In life, at work and within the family, through joys and sorrows, he always sought and loved the Lord, deserving the Scriptures’ eulogy that described him as a just and wise man,”

“Always invoke him, especially in difficult times and entrust your life to this great saint.”

The Pope concluded his new Apostolic Letter by urging Catholics to pray to St. Joseph for “the grace of graces: our conversion.”

He ended the text with a prayer:

“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.”



Saint Joseph and the Christ Child – (Cuzco School) c. 17th century----We see in this work a greater understanding of the role of Saint Joseph in the Church. Mary

is nowhere to be seen in this particular 17th century work; instead we see Saint Joseph as young doting father, relishing his paternal role

Introduction to the Novena: The Litany of St Joseph

In saying this Litany quietly and reverently we recall the attributes, the graces of St Joseph, and the ways in which he supports and sustains us in the circumstances of daily life with all its tears and smiles. We seek the face of St Joseph as we pray.

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy..... *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy..... *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy.*Lord, have mercy.*
Jesus, hear us..... *Jesus, graciously hear us.*
God, the Father of Heaven,..... *Have mercy on us.*
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,.....*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.*
Renowned offspring of David,.....*pray for us.*
Light of Patriarchs,.....*pray for us.*
Spouse of the Mother of God,.....*pray for us.*
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,.....*pray for us.*
Foster father of the Son of God,.....*pray for us.*
Diligent protector of Christ,.....*pray for us.*
Head of the Holy Family,*pray for us.*
Joseph most just,*pray for us.*
Joseph most chaste,.....*pray for us.*
Joseph most prudent,.....*pray for us.*
Joseph most strong,.....*pray for us.*
Joseph most obedient,*pray for us.*

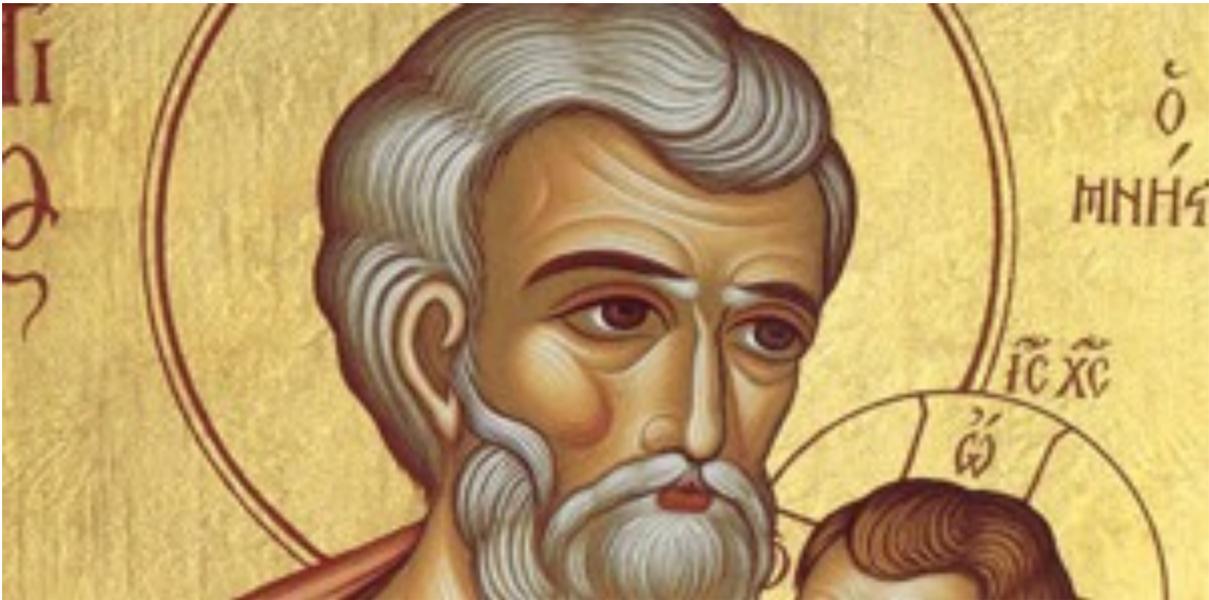
Joseph most faithful,.....*pray for us.*
 Mirror of patience,*pray for us.*
 Lover of poverty,.....*pray for us.*
 Model of artisans,.....*pray for us.*
 Glory of home life,*pray for us.*
 Guardian of virgins,*pray for us.*
 Pillar of families,.....*pray for us.*
 Solace of the wretched,*pray for us.*
 Hope of the sick,.....*pray for us.*
 Patron of the dying,.....*pray for us.*
 Terror of demons,.....*pray for us.*
 Protector of Holy Church,.....*pray for us.*
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,*spare us, O Lord.*
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,*graciously hear us, O Lord.*
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world.....*grant us your peace, O Lord.*

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: You who live and reign forever and ever. Saint Joseph, pray for us. Amen.



DAY ONE: Wed 10 Mar 21

We begin our Novena today:



Day 1 Opening Prayer seeking an open heart

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Lord...Our Father..

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Glory be to the Father....

Prayer to St Joseph :

Saint Joseph, I humbly greet you. You are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have special confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I place my hope of salvation in you, for empowered by God you will never abandon your faithful servants.

Therefore I humbly invoke you and commend myself to your intercession with all

who are dear to me and all who belong to me. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during my life and to assist me at the hour of my death. Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect obedience to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model throughout my life that I may merit to die, as you did, in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special graces I now implore:

(Here we mention our requests- praying for everything that concerns us).

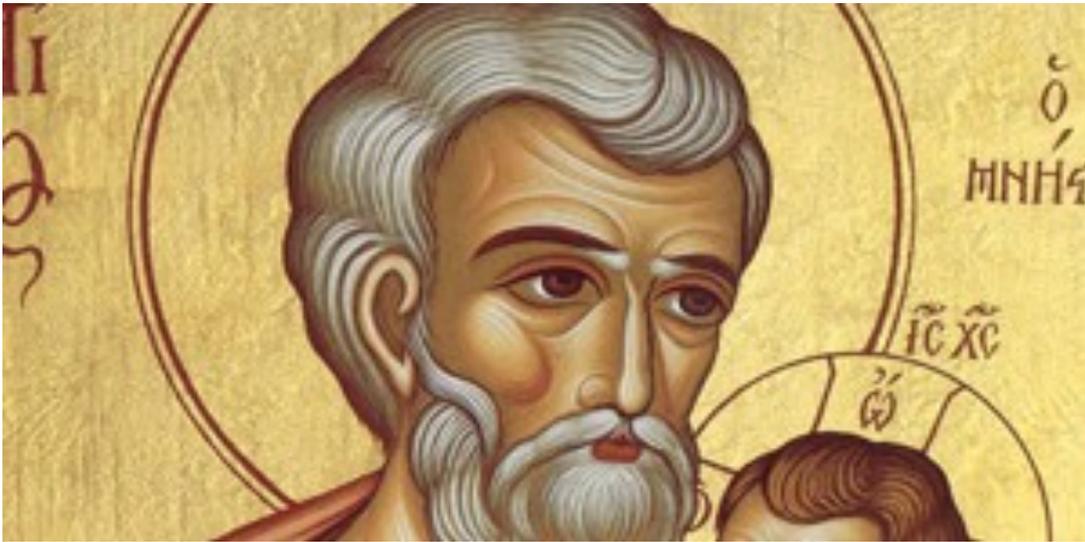
Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

Concluding Prayer Remember, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, my loving protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.



DAY TWO: Thu 11 Mar 21

We continue our Novena today :



Day 2 Opening Prayer seeking an open heart

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Lord...Our Father..

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Glory be to the Father....

We recall That St Joseph is Patron saint of husbands and fathers, and Patron of the Universal Church

Consider the Glorious Titles of St. Joseph (St John Henry Newman)

He was the true and worthy Spouse of Mary, supplying in a visible manner the place of Mary's Invisible Spouse, the Holy Spirit. He was a virgin, and his virginity

was the faithful mirror of the virginity of Mary. He was the Cherub, placed to guard the new terrestrial Paradise from the intrusion of every foe.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.

R. Henceforth and forever. Amen.

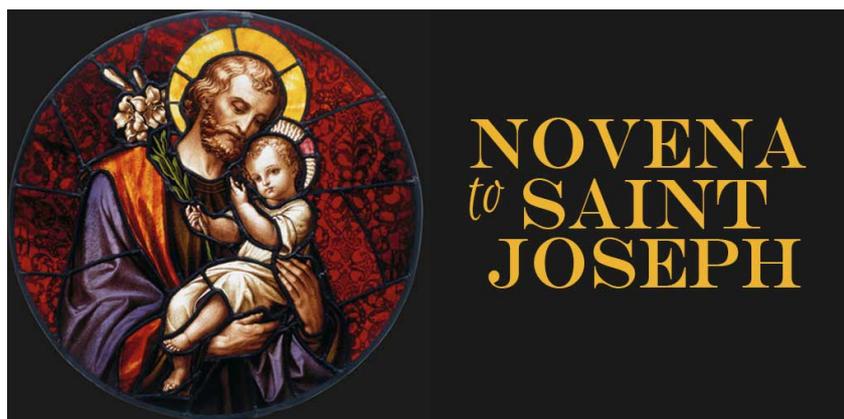
Let us pray.

God, who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be made worthy to receive him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy Protector: who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Prayer to St Joseph : O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. I bring before you my special petitions *[here we make our requests in prayer]*

O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings so that having experienced here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

Concluding Prayer Remember, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, my loving protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.



DAY THREE : Fri 12 Mar 21

We continue our Novena today : St Joseph the Worker



Day 3 Opening Prayer seeking an open heart

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Lord...Our Father..

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Glory be to the Father...

A Prayer to St Joseph : O glorious Joseph!

Who concealed your incomparable and regal dignity of custodian of Jesus and of the Virgin Mary under the humble appearance of a craftsman and provided for them with your work; protect with loving power your daughters and sons who are especially entrusted to you. You know their anxieties and sufferings, because you yourself experienced them at the side of Jesus and of His Mother. Do not allow them, oppressed by so many worries, to forget the purpose for which they were created by God.

Remind all the workers that in the fields, in factories, in mines, and in scientific laboratories, they are not working, rejoicing, or suffering alone, but at their side is

Jesus, with Mary, His Mother and ours, to sustain them, to dry the sweat of their brow, giving value to their toil.

Teach us all to turn work into an instrument of sanctification as you did. Amen.

Reflection : "Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the Living God. He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God," Pope John Paul II.

We can see from his actions in scripture that Joseph was a compassionate man, and obedient to the will of God. He also loved Mary and Jesus and wanted to protect and provide for them.

Joseph is the patron of many things, including the universal Church, fathers, the dying and social justice. *{We bring to St Joseph our concerns, our anxieties, hopes and fears}*

Prayer : Good Saint Joseph, ever watchful guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ, keep us free from the blight of error and corruption, and be our ally in the conflict with the powers of darkness. As of old you rescued the child Jesus from the plots of Herod, so now defend the universal Church from all harm. Keep us one and all under your continual protection, so that by your help and example, we may lead a holy life, die a happy death, and come to possess eternal life in heaven. Amen

God our Father, Creator and Ruler of the universe, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St. Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



DAY FOUR : Sat 14 Mar 21

We continue our Novena today : St Joseph, Father of Jesus. The Obedient Son



Day 4 Opening Prayer seeking an open heart

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Lord...Our Father..

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Glory be to the Father...

Consider the Glorious Titles of St. Joseph [St John Henry Newman]

Joseph was entitled as father of the Son of God, because he was the Spouse of Mary, ever Virgin. He was our Lord's father because Jesus ever yielded to him the obedience of a son. He was our Lord's father, because to him were entrusted, and by him were faithfully fulfilled, the duties of a father, in protecting Him, giving Him a home, sustaining and rearing Him, and providing Him with a trade.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.

R. Henceforth and forever. Amen.

Let us pray.

God, who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be made worthy to receive him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy Protector: who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Prayer to St Joseph : O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. I bring before you my special petitions [here we make our requests in prayer]

O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings so that having experienced here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.



I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of [St. Joseph] which he has failed to grant... To other saints the Lord seems to have given grace to succour us in some of our necessities, but of this glorious saint my experience is that he succours us in them all..."

(Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila).

DAY FIVE : Sun 14 Mar 21

**We continue our Novena today : St Joseph Protector Of Mary,
Mother of God**



Day 5 Opening Prayer seeking an open heart

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Lord...Our Father..

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Glory be to the Father...

Consider the Glorious Titles of St. Joseph [St John Henry Newman]

He is Holy Joseph, because according to the opinion of a great number of doctors, he, as well as St. John the Baptist, was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate, and Mary, the holiest of creatures.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.

R. Henceforth and forever. Amen.

Let us pray.

God, who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be made worthy to receive him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy Protector: who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Prayer to St Joseph : O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. I bring before you my special petitions [here we make our requests in prayer]

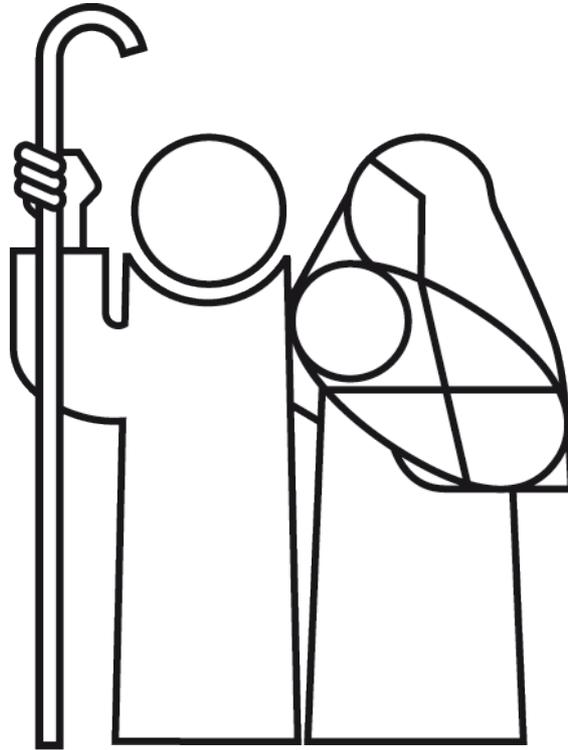
O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings so that having experienced here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.



Almighty God, you have chosen Saint Joseph to be the mainstay of Jesus and Mary, the wise and faithful servant in whom they could trust. We pray that he may truly be the guardian of your Church; that he may inspire with confidence those who are devoted to him; that he may give security to those who work in the vineyard of Your Son; and finally, that he may be a source of strength to us, who wish, like him, to dedicate ourselves to Christ's service, now and in times to come. Amen.

DAY SIX : Mon 15 Mar 21

We continue our Novena today : St Joseph, the Missionary



Day 6 Opening Prayer seeking an open heart

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of the Lord...Our Father..

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Glory be to the Father...

Joseph the Missionary

Matt. 2.14: "Joseph got up and took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt."

The Gospel tells us that Joseph took Mary and the child to a pagan land. St. Hilary, one of the early Fathers of the Church, said St. Joseph is the "model of the

apostles". The apostle's, the missionary's task is to take the good news of Christ and his mother to the unevangelized.

The missionary of today is the bearer of the same Good News. Every Christian is called to share in the mission of the Church, at home and in other lands Let us ask St. Joseph to help us to know how we can bring Christ into the lives of people, especially those who are most disadvantaged.

We bring our requests to St Joseph



Prayer : Almighty God, you have chosen Saint Joseph to be the mainstay of Jesus and Mary, the wise and faithful servant in whom they could trust. We pray that he may truly be the guardian of your Church; that he may inspire with confidence those who are devoted to him; that he may give security to those who work in the vineyard of Your Son; and finally, that he may be a source of strength to us, who wish, like him, to dedicate ourselves to Christ's service, now and in times to come. Amen.



