

Prayer to St Joseph



Year of
St Joseph

Prayer Leader:

Last Sunday was Mother's Day, and so all week we have been thinking about how we can make our relationships with our mums and Mary even better.

Later in the year it is Father's Day when we'll celebrate how brilliant our dads are, but today we are thinking about one dad: Jesus' dad.

We know that Jesus is the son of God, but there was someone special on earth who helped Mary to look after Jesus.

Can you remember what His name is?



Prayer Leader:

Today, the 19th March, is the Feast of St Joseph. This is an especially important day this year, as Pope Francis has proclaimed this year **'The Year of Joseph'** – that means we will be spending more time thinking about Him and praying to Him.

Pope Francis tells us that Joseph was like Jesus' foster father – not His actual father, but someone who loved Him 'with a father's heart'.

What else do you know about Joseph?



Prayer Leader:

We know that Joseph:

- Was a carpenter
- Was engaged to Mary
- Was surprised by a visit from an angel who told him about Mary's pregnancy
- Went on a long journey to Bethlehem, where He saw Jesus born in a stable, as there was no room elsewhere
- Witnessed the shepherds and wise men visit baby Jesus and worship Him
- Became Jesus' legal father and gave Him His name
- Presented Jesus at the temple and heard prophecies about Jesus
- Led Mary to Egypt to keep Jesus safe
- Listened to God's guidance and followed it



Prayer Leader:

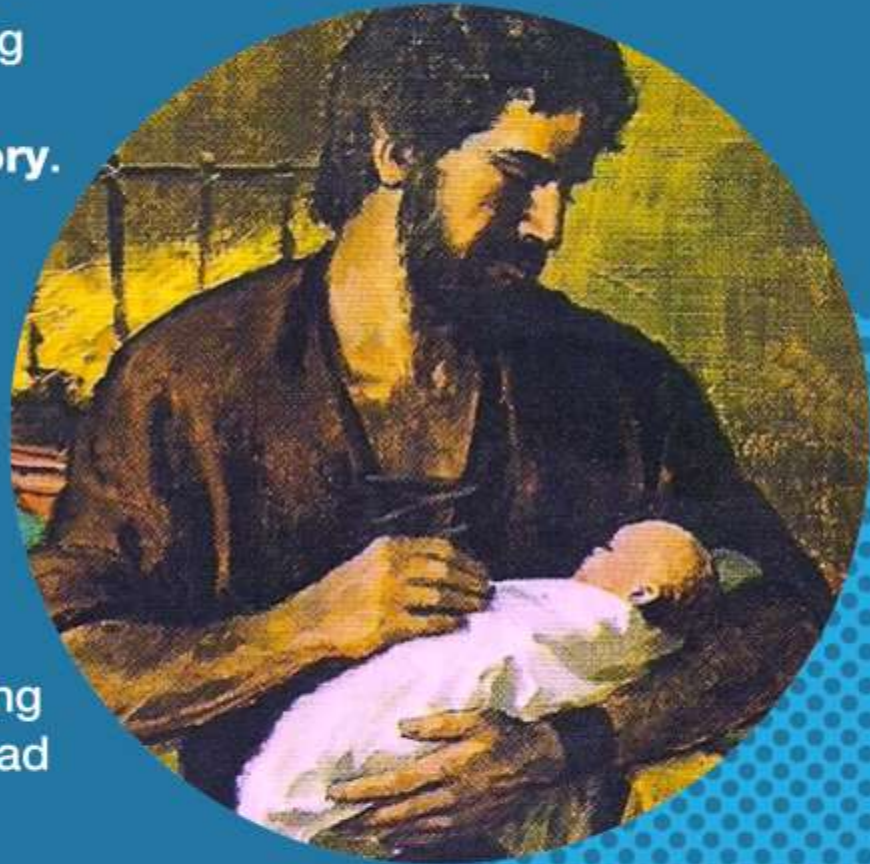
Joseph is often overlooked when we talk about the Gospels, but Pope Francis has reminded us how important Joseph is!

Pope Francis explains that, especially during the pandemic, **it is the ordinary, often overlooked people who are shaping history.**

He celebrates key workers like doctors, nurses, supermarket workers, cleaners, carers and many more, who every day choose to be patient and give hope, who take care not to spread panic but shared responsibility.

Pope Francis explains that we are all learning how to deal with a crisis by adjusting our routines, making sacrifices, looking ahead and praying for others.

He encourages us to take inspiration from Joseph, a man who often goes unnoticed, **to become more prayerful and more supportive to those around us.**





'Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.'

Pope Francis

Prayer Leader:

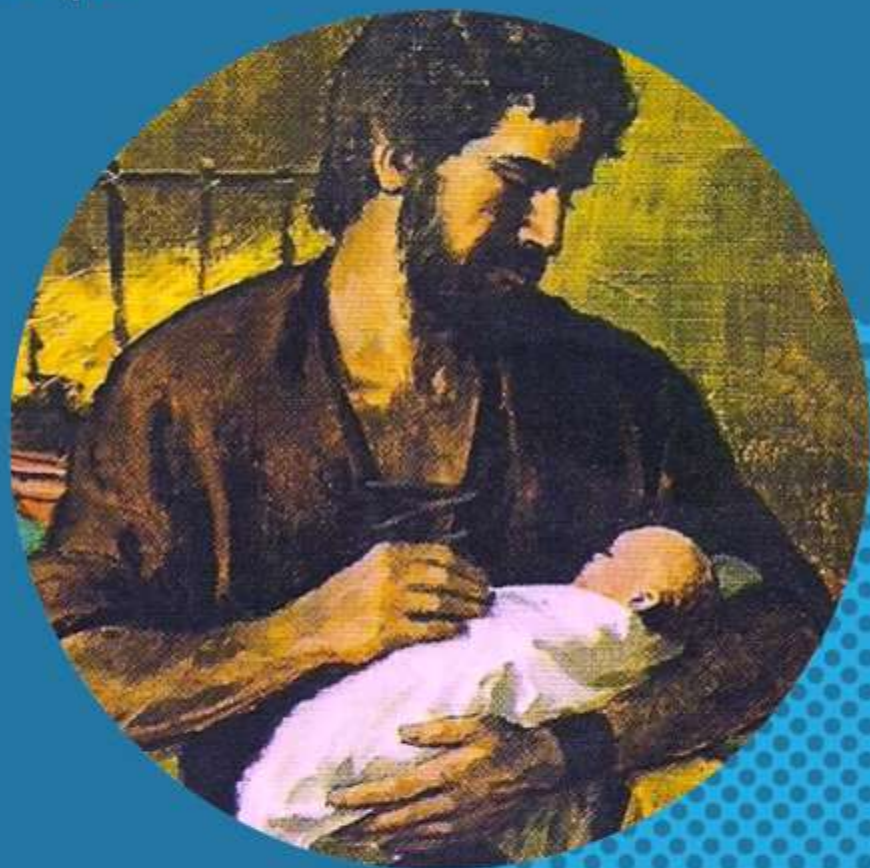
Let's pray Pope Francis' special prayer to Joseph:

All:

**Hail, foster father of Jesus,
Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Jesus became man.**

**Blessed Joseph,
Be a father to us too
and guide us through life.
Pray for us to have grace,
mercy and courage.
Defend us from evil.**

Amen



Prayer to St Joseph



Year of
St Joseph