

The Feast of St Joseph the Worker



Year of
St Joseph

Prayer Leader:

Today, the 1st May, is **The Feast of St Joseph the Worker.**

You might think 'haven't we already had a Feast day for St Joseph this year?!'

You're right - we have!

This is the second Feast Day for St Joseph and focuses on his inspiring qualities as a worker.



Prayer Leader:

As you will remember, Pope Francis has proclaimed this year '**The Year of St Joseph**', which means that we are spending more time thinking about and praying to Him.

This special prayer time will inspire us with some of Pope Francis' thoughts about Joseph as a worker.

Can you remember what kind of work Joseph did?



Prayer Leader:

Joseph was a carpenter, which means he built things out of wood.

Maybe doors, window frames, shelves, cupboards, tables, chairs, even houses or boats!

Can you see some things where you are that a carpenter might have made or put together?



Prayer Leader:

What skills do you think a carpenter needs to have?



Good co-ordination,
able to work well
with their hands

Understanding
maths and
measurements

Concentrating well
and paying attention
to detail

Able to use, repair
and maintain tools

Prayer Leader:

So why do people work? Well, there are lots of things that families need to pay for today...

- **Housing**, whether they are renting or paying the mortgage
- **Bills** for electricity and heating
- **Taxes** which are paid to the government to contribute to things like education and healthcare
- **Clothes**
- And most importantly... **food!**

Jesus and His family didn't have electricity, but a lot of the things they would have had to pay for are the same as families have to pay for today.



Prayer Leader:

Pope Francis tells about how Joseph worked as a carpenter to earn money to provide for his family.

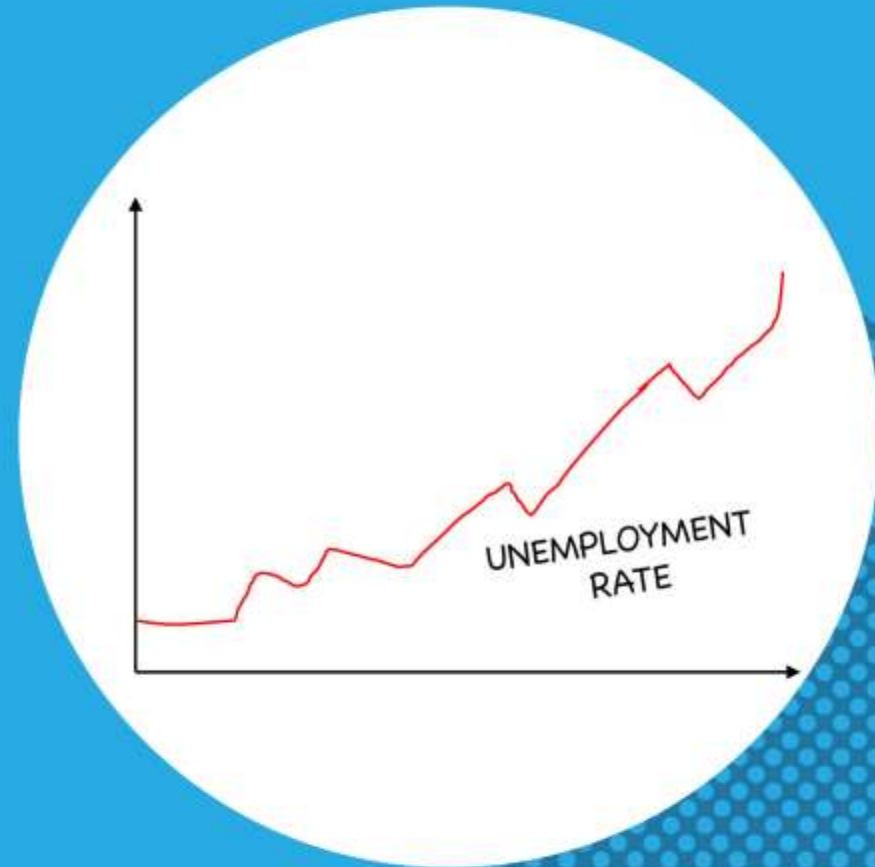
From watching Joseph work as He grew up, Jesus learned the **value** and **dignity** of work, and the **joy** that comes from earning to provide for others.



Prayer Leader:

Over the last year, a lot of people have lost their jobs or not been able to work because of the pandemic.

It's been a really difficult time for many people; perhaps you've noticed this in your family or in people you know who are worried about their jobs.



Prayer Leader:

But Pope Francis tells us that making money isn't the only reason for working!

He describes how through work we develop our talents and abilities, serve our communities and show love for our families.

He uses the word '**dignity**' to describe how working brings with it a kind of **honour** and **respect**, for ourselves and others.



Prayer Leader:

Saint Joseph is the foster father of the son of God - if anyone could avoid work because they thought they were too important, surely it would be him!

Instead, his example of working carefully and honestly reminds us that even God works to create and sustain the world in which we live!



Prayer Leader:

Pope Francis tells us that when we work, whether for money or not, we are working with God Himself and **'in some way become creators of the world around us'!**

He goes on to say that **'no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!'**



Prayer Leader:

So how can we be inspired by
St Joseph the carpenter?

What work can you do this week? Will you...

- Commit to your school work and pay attention to details?
- Concentrate well when someone gives you instructions?
 - Notice when things are messy and tidy them up without being asked?
 - Help prepare food at home?
 - Pick up litter around where you live?
- Ask a parent if there's a special job you can help with, like cleaning windows?

What else can you think of?

Prayer Leader:

Let's ask St Joseph to help us in our work:

**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 a man.**

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

Amen

