

# THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

150 YEARS AFTER SAINT JOSEPH WAS  
RECOGNISED AS THE PATRON SAINT OF  
THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, POPE FRANCIS  
HAS DECLARED THE PERIOD FROM

8TH DECEMBER 2020 -  
8TH DECEMBER 2021



**CELEBRATING THE YEAR  
OF SAINT JOSEPH IN THE  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN  
THE DIOCESE OF CLOGHER**

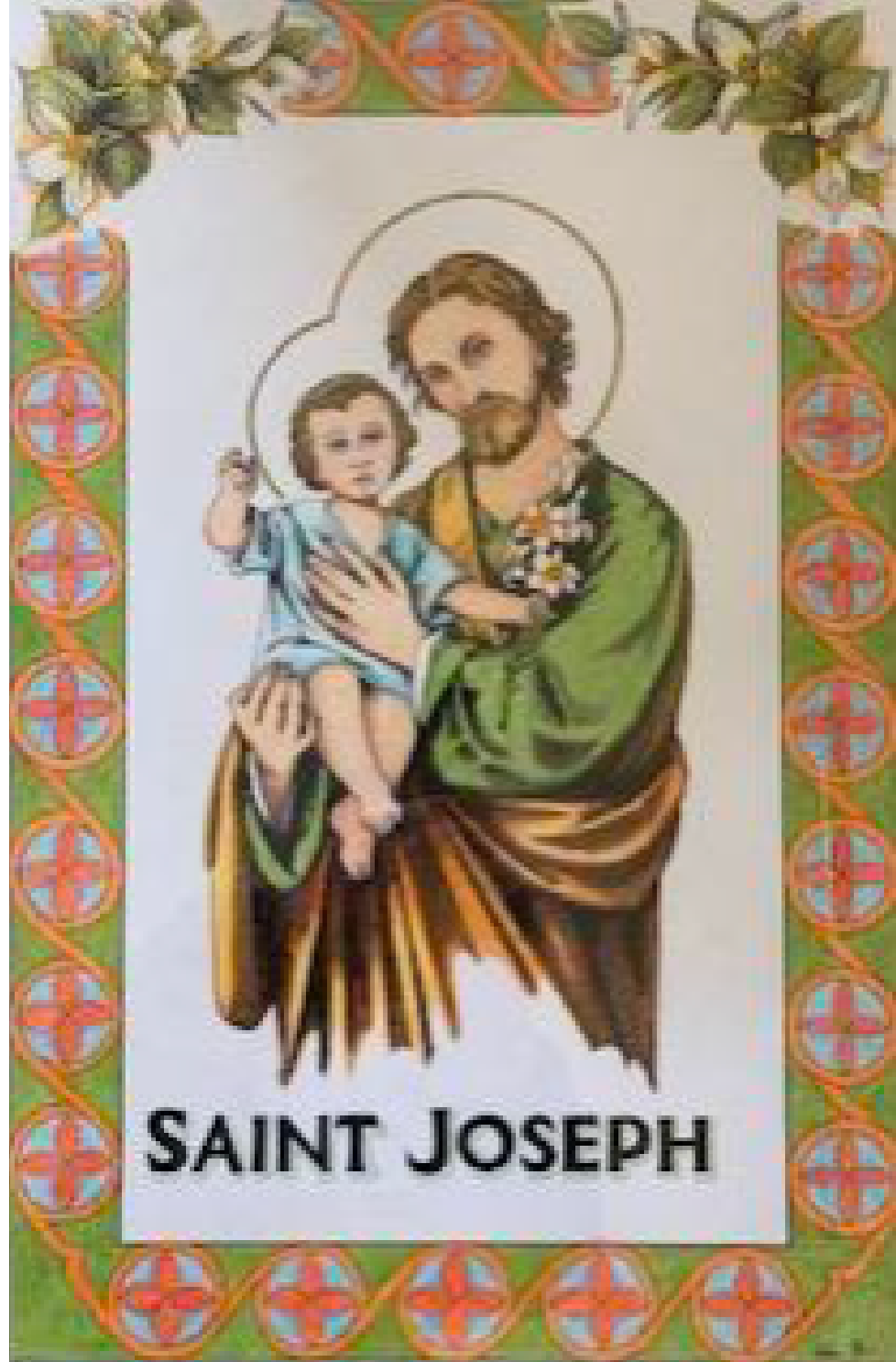


DIOCESE OF CLOGHER

Pope Francis said that the coronavirus pandemic had heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, since so many people have made hidden sacrifices to protect others during the pandemic, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

The Pope wrote that 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 also wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility.



**^ This image of Saint Joseph was commissioned by Saint Joseph's Primary School, Donagh, County Fermanagh and blessed by Larry Duffy, Bishop of Clogher, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the opening of the school.**

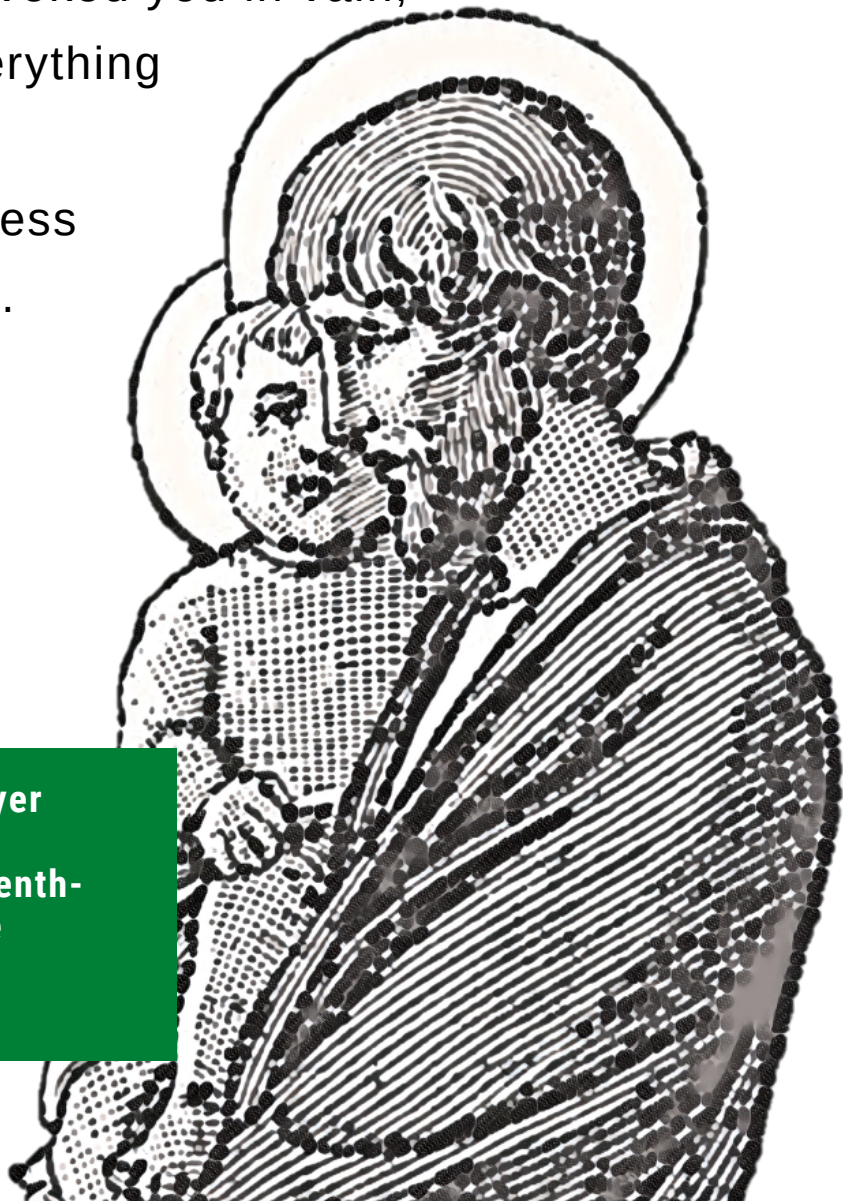


# POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,  
whose power makes the impossible possible,  
come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.  
Take under your protection the serious  
and troubling situations that I commend to you,  
that they may have a happy outcome.  
My beloved father, all my trust is in you.  
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain,  
and since you can do everything  
with Jesus and Mary,  
show me that your goodness  
is as great as your power.

Amen.

Pope Francis has recited this prayer  
every day for over forty years.  
The prayer is taken from a nineteenth-  
century French prayer book of the  
Congregation of the Sisters  
of Jesus and Mary.



# POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

- from his Letter, *"With a Father's Heart"*

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.





## **St. Joseph's Flowering Staff**

Some images and statues of St. Joseph show him with a staff which is topped with lilies. An ancient legend tells that Joseph was chosen from among other men to be Mary's husband by the blossoming of his staff like a lily.



## **Bible Search with references to St Joseph**

**Matthew 1:1-17** - *Jesus' Family Tree*

**Matthew 13:55** - *Reference to Jesus being a carpenter's son.*

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*Joseph told in a dream by an Angel to take Mary as his wife.*

**Mathew 2-13-15, 19-23**

*Joseph's Dream and the Flight to Egypt.*

**Luke 2:1-7**

*Jesus goes with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem for the census and the birth of Jesus.*

**Luke 2:16**

*The Shepherds find Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus.*

**Luke 2:23-39**

*The Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple.*

**Luke 2:40-51** - *Jesus found in the Temple.*



# LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

*(Adapted for schools)*

Husband of Mary, pray for us.

Foster Father of Jesus, pray for us.

Chosen by God, pray for us.

A family man, pray for us.

Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.

A refugee in a strange country, pray for us.

Who was obedient to God, pray for us.

Who listened to the Angel of God, pray for us.

The carpenter, pray for us.

A hard worker, pray for us.

Kind and caring, pray for us.

Example to parents, pray for us.

Hope of the sick. Pray for us.

Who prays for the dying, pray for us.

Protector of the Church, pray for us.

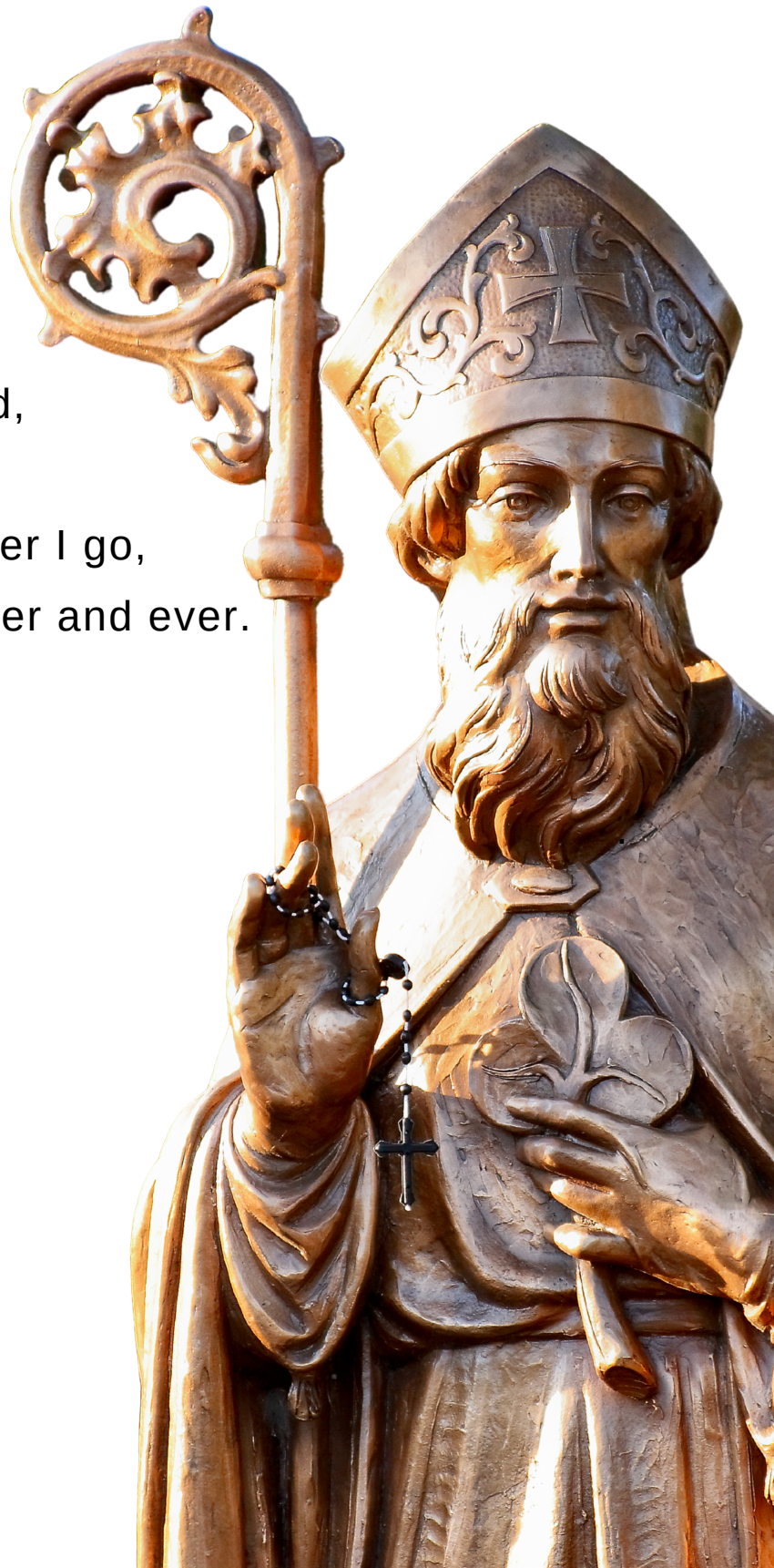


# SAINT PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

*(From Grow In Love)*

Christ be with me,  
Christ be beside me,  
Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me,  
Christ be at my right hand,  
Christ be at my left hand,  
Christ be with me wherever I go,  
Christ be my friend, forever and ever.

Amen.



# SLEEPING SAINT JOSEPH

While sleeping, Joseph receives the messages of God who warned him of the danger posed by King Herod and advises him to love and protect Mary and the Child. It is in this dream that Joseph takes on his role of Father of Jesus and of all people, an archetypal figure, protector, defender, comforter. Joseph is the careful and tender guardian of the family, the man, who welcomes and guards the mysteries of God, as he has consciously chosen to accept and protect Mary, the woman that God willed to be the holy and immaculate mother of his own Son. Joseph is the archetype of the Christian bishop, father and protector of the Church and all men and women who make it up.



This is why the Pope has the habit of putting cards or notes under the statue of the sleeping saint that contain problems, requests for grace, and prayers of the faithful. It's like inviting Joseph to 'sleep on it' and perhaps put in a word to God to solve difficult situations and help the needy, thus renewing his role as the merciful and protective father to those he loves.

## **Prayer to the Sleeping Saint Joseph**

Saint Joseph,  
Whose protection is so great, so strong,  
So prompt before the throne of God,  
I place in you all my interest and desires.  
Amen.



**Feast Days** 19th March and 1st May

**Patron Saint** of the Universal Church,  
Unborn Children, Fathers, Workers, Travellers, Immigrants,  
and a Happy Death.

Visit the Diocese of Clogher Website for additional  
resources & information:

**[www.clogherdiocese.ie/saintjoseph](http://www.clogherdiocese.ie/saintjoseph)**

## **In the Classroom – Some Suggestions**

### ***Prayer Space***

Create a Prayer Space in the Classroom with symbols that represent the various aspects of the life of St Joseph (Husband, Father, Carpenter, Refugee, Worker, Teacher, a man of Faith).

*Some suggestions for the Prayer Space:*

A statue or an image of St. Joseph and the Holy Family

School Bible

Holy Water

Flowers – a lily

Candle or virtual candle from the Grow in Love resources on the white board.

A walking stick: a reminder of St Joseph's journey through life

### ***Chatting***

Who is Saint Joseph?

What is known about him?

Think of places named after Saint Joseph in your parish?

Anybody in the classroom/family/ friends named Joseph?

Why is it important to pray to Saint Joseph?

What do we learn about St. Joseph in the Bible?

- *Loving, Caring, Faithful, Courageous and Brave, a Refugee.*

Explore in the Bible some references to Saint Joseph

(See above)

Pray the Litany of Saint Joseph together.

## **In the Classroom – Some Suggestions (cont.)**

### ***Activity***

Invite the children to write a poem/short story about Saint Joseph or write a prayer to Saint Joseph.

### **The Sleeping Saint Joseph**

Chat about the Sleeping Saint Joseph.

Why did the Angel appear to Joseph and how many times are we told?

Chat about the response of Joseph and his example to us.

Why does Pope Francis put notes or cards under the sleeping saint?

Is there something the class would like to pray to Saint Joseph for – for the class, the school, the community, the world.

Perhaps place this prayer in the prayer space.

Pray the prayer to the Sleeping Saint Joseph.



## **A Class or School Prayer Service**

*Suitable Music*

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

*Begin by lighting a candle on the Prayer Space or virtual candle on the white board (Grow In Love).*

**Reader 1:** Our candle reminds us that God is with us.

**Leader - Opening Prayer:**

God sent his Angel to St. Joseph in a dream to warn him and to guide him.

Together we pray:

Angel sent by God to guide me,  
Be my light and walk beside me;  
Be my Guardian and protect me;  
On the paths of life protect me.  
Amen. *(From Grow In Love)*

**Reader 2 - Scripture Reading:**

*(Choose from the School Bible a Reading from the references given above).*

**Reader 3:** We come together today to celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. A carpenter by trade, Jesus learned from Joseph the ability to work with his hands and make things in their workshop in Nazareth. The Bible tells us that Joseph loved and trusted God and loved and cared for Mary and Jesus. As a faithful father, he helped to form Jesus as he grew up and worried about him like any loving parent. He protected Mary as his wife and the wellbeing of their home. Joseph was a hardworking man who was humble, kind, respectful and whom God saw in him the qualities to be the foster father of his only Son Jesus. Saint Joseph is a wonderful example to us to be kind and loving to one another, to be hard working and to love God. Today we give thanks to God for the gift of Saint Joseph.



**Reader 4:** The response to the following prayer is:

Saint Joseph, inspire us and guide us.

**All:** *Saint Joseph, inspire us and guide us.*

Saint Joseph, you cared and loved your family. God, bless all our families and all who care for us.

**All:** *Saint Joseph, inspire us and guide us.*

You were a carpenter and skilled in making things. God, bless all skilled workers.

**All:** *Saint Joseph, inspire us and guide us.*

You set up home as a stranger in Egypt. God, bless all those from other places who have made their home in this country.

**All:** *Saint Joseph, pray for us and guide us.*

Saint Joseph, you trusted God when God spoke to you in a dream through an Angel. God, bless us as we try to live Like Joseph.

**All:** *Saint Joseph, inspire us and guide us.*

**Leader:** Together we pray: Our Father...

**Reader 5:** *Reflection*

Saint Joseph,  
watch over me and care for me  
just as you cared for the child Jesus;  
and by your help,  
may I come to know your Son  
and so grow in strength  
and wisdom  
and the favour of God.  
Amen.

**Leader:** Together we conclude this prayer service by praying  
Pope Francis' Prayer to St Joseph.

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the  
Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

*Suitable Music*