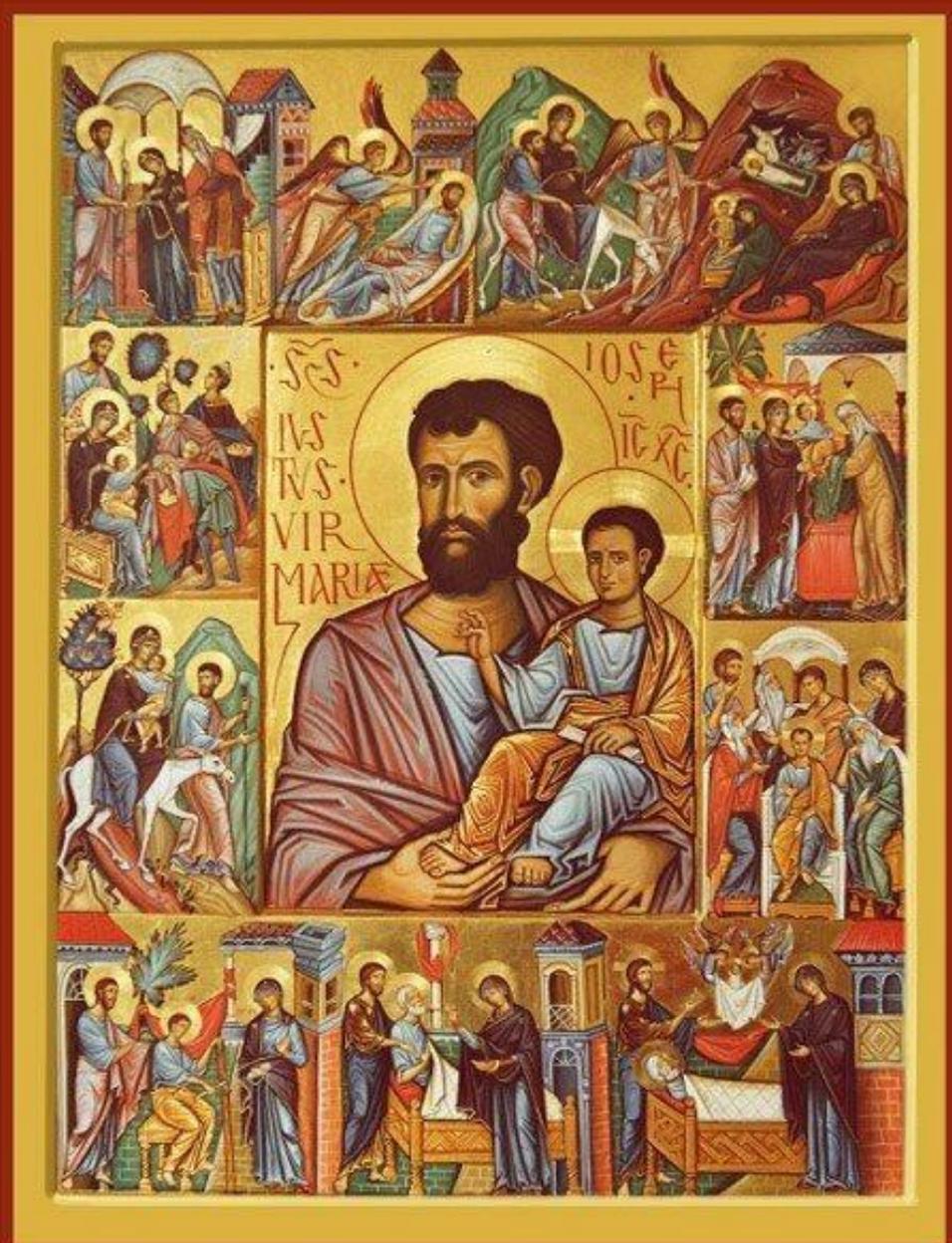


In Honour of Saint Joseph

19 March 2021



Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart) Pope Francis

- The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Covid Medics



Joseph's Song - Michael Card



Matthew 2:13

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

“Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt.

Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”



Matthew 2:19-20

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

“Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”



Reflection Pope Francis

How does Joseph respond to his calling to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church?”

Pope Francis asked.

“By being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God’s presence and receptive to God’s plans, and not simply to his own.

A Working Family



Joseph the Protector - Pope Francis

“Joseph is a ‘protector’ because he is able to hear God’s voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions,”

Saint Joseph Man of Dreams





Joseph

by the Centro Aletti art team, lead by Fr Marko Ivan Rupnik SJ. Chapel of the Irish College, Rome.



Joseph “confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” *Pope Francis*

Here he is shown making the offering of the poor (a pair of turtledoves) in thanksgiving to God, while presenting Jesus in the Temple [Luke 2:24]. They did not have the money to offer a lamb, but were presenting the child who was the Lamb of God.

He very tenderly presents the doves, his hands covered with a cloth, so that they can be a pure offering.

World Meeting of Families Icon 2018



Joseph “knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care.” Fatherhood “has nothing to do with possession.” *(Pope Francis)*

Here Joseph and Mary bow to their holy child whilst surrounding him with their care.

Joseph points to Jesus as good news for all people. He also makes a gesture almost like ‘letting go’ - knowing the heartache of every parent who longs that their child will become all they can be in God’s eyes.

Ancient Prayer to St. Joseph

1. O, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires especially at this time of crisis in the world. in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

2. O, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

3. O, St. Joseph, I never weary
contemplating you, and Jesus asleep
Press Him close in my name
and kiss His fine head for me
and ask Him to return the kiss
when I draw my dying breath. Amen.

Joseph's Lullaby (Mercy Me)

Go to sleep my Son
Baby, close Your
eyes
Soon enough You'll
save the day
But for now, dear
Child of mine



Original Candle of Protection Prayer Pro-Cathedral - Dublin

ST. JOSEPH, YOU PROTECTED JESUS FROM ALL DANGER AND HARM.
WE ENTRUST TO YOUR CARE ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE
AND ALL WHO ARE VULNERABLE.
WATCH OVER THEM AND KEEP THEM SAFE.
HOLD THEM CLOSE TO YOU ALWAYS.
WE ASK THIS THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF JESUS,
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. AMEN.

Saint Joseph's Prayer

IF JOSEPH HAD NOT HAMMERED
STRAIGHT NAILS INTO HONEST WOOD
IF JOSEPH HAD NOT CHERISHED
HIS MARY AS HE SHOULD
IF JOSEPH HAD NOT PROVED
A MAN BOTH KIND AND WISE
WOULD HE HAVE DRAWN WITH FAVOUR
THE CHILD'S ALL PROBING EYES?
WOULD CHRIST HAVE PRAYED
OUR FATHER OR CALLED THAT NAME
IN DEATH UNLESS HE FIRST HONOURED
JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

Prayer to Saint Joseph

- 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.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Gracious St. Joseph, protect me and my family from all evil as you did the Holy Family.

Kindly keep us ever united in the love of Christ, ever fervent in imitation of the virtue of our Blessed Lady, your sinless spouse, and always faithful in devotion to you. Amen.