



# YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

*“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”*

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

Pope Francis has declared that the year from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, would be dedicated to St. Joseph, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ.

His announcement coincides with the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1870.

A celebration of St. Joseph and a call to focus on his patronage is particularly relevant in this time of universal turmoil when so many are having difficulty finding employment, when we are becoming more aware of how much we owe to so many ordinary, hardworking people, and when our human frailty and mortality are so much in our minds and in the news.

The Church reminds us that we have a powerful ally in Heaven who, having lived and worked so long in the shadows like so many unsung heroes, St. Joseph is both Patron of Workers and Patron of a Happy Death.

## **Plenary indulgence**

As an extra special blessing to accompany this celebration, the Church offers a plenary indulgence to all the Catholic faithful, under the usual conditions (Confession, Communion, and praying for the pope's intentions), if they participate in the Year of St. Joseph.

## **Participation in the Year of St. Joseph includes**

- meditation on the Our Father for at least 30 minutes, or participation in a spiritual retreat of at least one day which includes a meditation on St. Joseph,
- performing a corporal or spiritual work of mercy,
- recitation of the Holy Rosary as a family or engaged couple,
- entrusting your activities every day to the protection of St. Joseph, or invoking his intercession so that those seeking employment may find work and that all may have dignified work,
- recitation of the Litany of St. Joseph or some other prayer to St. Joseph for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution, and
- recitation of any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, especially on these particular days: March 19 (Feast of St. Joseph), May 1 (Optional Feast of St. Joseph the Worker), the 19th day of each month, and every Wednesday.

The Church particularly extends the gift of this indulgence to "the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house" in this time of pandemic, as long as they are detached from sin and intend to fulfill the usual conditions as soon as possible, if they "recite an act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, comfort of the sick and patron of a happy death, offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts of their lives."

## Resources for the Year of St. Joseph

The parish will be providing a variety of prayer resources which honour St. Joseph including a Litany to St. Joseph, Prayer to St. Joseph after the Rosary, Prayer to St. Joseph by Pope Pius X, Traditional Novena Prayer to St. Joseph and Consecration Prayer to St. Joseph. A copy of these can be found in the Church foyer. However, below is a new prayer which is from the Pope Francis' apostolic letter which he encourages each of us to pray together:

***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.***

Happy Year of St. Joseph!!

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## For additional material for the Year of St. Joseph

**Monthly Reflections:** Each month, a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character will be published on the following website: <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

