

Monday 4th Week Lent St Joseph 2023

Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is written in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From the human character of his son, we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans and of workers in general. To all adoptive parents, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or as the support of a whole family, he is a source of inspiration.

A key to this feast is **Faith**. We are brothers and sisters in faith not by blood. The picture we have of St Joseph is that he responded in faith to whatever God asked of him. We have no idea of the struggles he faced to do this or the personal challenges he had to overcome. However, we can be certain that God walked with him every step of the way. A saint is not someone who is perfect or a paradigm of someone impossible to follow. A saint is someone who continually struggles to do their best for God but is also an example of how God can help us do great things because they accept in faith the graces, strength, guidance and wisdom of God. A saint then is an example of how God wants to work in us here and now, and of what is possible.

Fatherhood is a desire to do one's best for the whole family. St Joseph like many others, too many to be numbered, are proof of how God will help fathers do this!

Pope Francis' 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.