

## Reflection Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Week Lent St Joseph 2024

Nothing is known of **St Joseph** except what is written in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God, 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 who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers in general. To those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or as the support of a whole family, he is a source of inspiration.

Today's feast was established by the 10<sup>th</sup> century. None of the gospels record anything he said. But his eloquent silence speaks volumes and reveals much about his character. He was loving, caring, obedient, humble, discreet and hard-working, remaining in the background: all qualities we would do well to emulate.

He must have been a man filled with worry, as his bride-to-be, Mary, was pregnant. But after an angel appeared to him in a dream, assuring him that Mary's child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, Joseph took Mary as his wife. He became a true father, with a father's heart. So much so that Jesus wanted to become a carpenter like him. Joseph was also a man of action. Think of him standing outside a stable after being rejected at the inn, fleeing to Egypt, and bringing the family safely back when it became safe to do so. He shows himself to be actively engaged in God's plan not just doing what he had been asked to do. From what we do know of him, we can see how he faithfully made the ordinary and a life of service into something extra-ordinary.