

The Year of St. Joseph



8th December 2020 – 8th December 2021

Part 1

In his new Apostolic Letter '*Patris corde*' ("With a Father's Heart"), to mark the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed this year as the 'Year of St. Joseph'.

The Year of St. Joseph occurs against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, Pope Francis says, has helped us appreciate 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."

In his letter, Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

A Prayer to St Joseph

Pope Francis concludes his Letter with a prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray :

*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.*