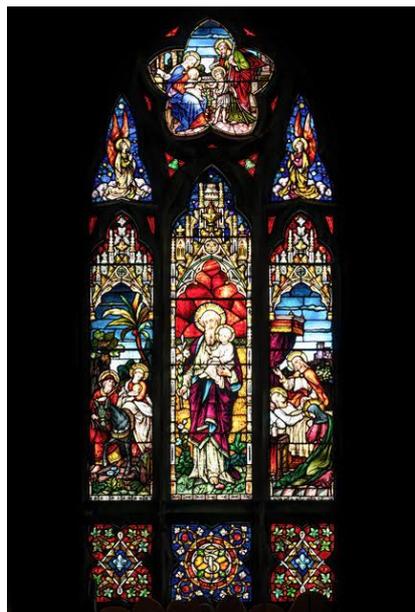


## The Year of St. Joseph

### Stained Glass Windows - St. Mary's Parish Church Dungarvan

Completed in 1828, St. Mary's Parish Church, Dungarvan was refurbished in the 1870s including the installation of the stained glass windows. The three windows behind the sanctuary are the work of Meyer and Company Munich and the side windows are of Wailes and Strange of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

St. Joseph features in a number of the stained glass windows. To the right of the altar, the window is dedicated to St. Joseph. The top window portrays the **Holy Family with St. John the Baptist**. The Virgin Mary sits on the left holding the Baby Jesus. St. Joseph stands to the right, holding his staff and in front of him is St. John the Baptist as a child, dressed in a rough tunic. The Child John points to the Child Jesus and above John flutters the words '*Agnus Dei*', the Lamb of God as John addresses Jesus when Jesus goes to the River Jordan for Baptism. St. Joseph stands as guardian of the Holy Family.



Beneath this window, the two triangular panels are angels in adoration of the Holy Family.

The central window panel depicts **St. Joseph with the Child Jesus** close to his heart. St. Joseph holds a lily in his hand. According to



legend, when the Virgin Mary reached marrying age, her father Joachim was unsure as to who she should marry. The high priest suggested that each of her suitors would leave his staff on the altar of the Temple, and a sign from heaven would indicate the man she would marry. When Joseph placed his staff on the altar, lilies sprouted from it and he married the Virgin Mary. Like the imagery of Our Lady, St. Joseph holding a lily indicates his chaste marriage to Mary.

Left of the central panel is the **Flight into Egypt**. St. Joseph, whose face portrays his anxiety, leads the way into exile, whilst the tender Virgin gazes with a love beyond all telling at the sleeping infant. Behind them is depicted the palm tree which according to legend bent down so Joseph could pick its fruit to feed his family on the dangerous journey to Egypt.



The right panel portrays the **Death of St. Joseph**, Christ raises his hand in blessing of his earthly father whilst Our Lady weeps at the death of her beloved husband. Beneath the three large panels are three square windows. The middle



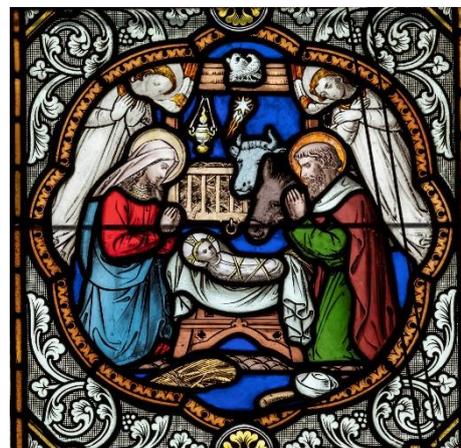
window has an intricate interlaced S and J honouring St. Joseph to whom this beautiful set of windows are dedicated.



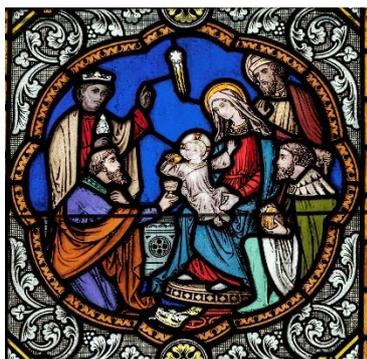
The windows left to Our Lady's shrine contain different images of St. Joseph in the life of Jesus before his public ministry. The middle window in the left panel contains the **Betrothal of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary** before the High Priest. St. Joseph holds the ring he will place on Our Lady's finger who stands next to a vase of lilies, again symbolising their chaste and pure marriage.

The next window's top right window shows the **Visitation** of Our Lady to her cousin Elizabeth; although the account of the Visitation does not mention Joseph accompanying Mary to Judah, the stained glass window depicts Joseph and the donkey standing in the background as Mary and Elizabeth embrace.

The window beneath is the **Nativity** Mary and Joseph kneel in prayer as the angels hover above in adoration. The cow and donkey, representing all of creation gaze upon the holy infant. A thurible with burning incense hangs from the stable beam signifying the presence of God, while the two doves represent peace on earth. The Star of Bethlehem shines bright. The next window is the **Adoration of the Shepherds** who bring a tethered lamb to the new infant. As his Mother shows the baby to the shepherds, St. Joseph stands behind them, his hands clasped in prayer.



The windows of the left panel begin with the **Presentation** of the Child Jesus in the Temple. Mary and Joseph present the Child Jesus to God as Simeon and Anna prophesy what awaits this Child and the sorrows that will pierce the Mother's heart. Mary holds the two doves, which Joseph, as a poor man, presents before the altar.



The middle window is the **Adoration of the Magi**. The Three Wise Men, guided by the Star offer the Child Jesus their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The two kings kneeling have removed their crowns in acknowledgement that Christ is the King of Kings. Mary enthroned, holds the Baby Jesus on her lap and Joseph stands behind them as guardian of the Holy Family.

The third window left to Our Lady's shrine begins with the **Flight into Egypt**. Later legends claimed that as the Holy Family entered Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod, the Egyptian gods fell from their pedestals in the presence of the Child who is God.

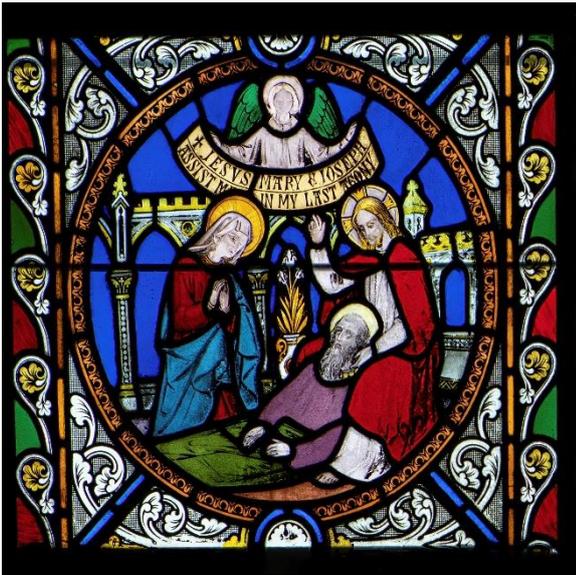




The next two windows and the top window of the right panel are of the **Holy Family** returned to Nazareth. Each window portrays the Holy Family engaged in household work and St. Joseph's employment as a carpenter. The third window shows the Holy Family in prayer as St. Joseph reads aloud from the Scriptures.

is about his Father's business.

The middle window is the **Finding of Jesus in the Temple**. Jesus stands among the teachers of the Law. Our Lady and an elderly St. Joseph stand to the side, perplexed by Jesus' answer that he



The third window is the last one to feature St. Joseph. It is the **Death of St. Joseph**, lying in the arms of Jesus whose hand is raised in blessing of his earthly father. Our Lady prays for her husband. Between the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph there is a vase from which grows the lily of purity, symbolising the chaste marriage between the holy spouses. Above them an angel holds a banner which reads 'Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Assist me in my last Agony', a fitting prayer to the saint who is the patron of a good death.



## Prayer For A Happy Death

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
 I give you my heart and soul,  
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
 assist me in my last agony.  
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
 may I breathe forth my soul  
 in peace with you.

Amen