

A YEAR OF St Joseph 2020-2021



INTRODUCTION

On 8 December, 2020, Pope Francis declared that we would enter into a year dedicated to St Joseph, who loved Jesus 'with a father's heart.' In his proclamation, Pope Francis described St Joseph as 'the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,' just like many people today, namely the 'men and women working to provide essential services and public safety' as we navigate the difficulties of this year. As we grow closer to St Joseph, let us remember all those who 'are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all. Each of us can discover in Joseph... an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. St Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.'

When St Joseph embraced his roles as husband to Mary and as father to Jesus, he thus placed himself 'at the service of the entire plan of salvation.'
(St John Chrysostom).

Before we enter into prayer, know that this act of piety and devotion is one of the many ways Catholics can obtain a special plenary indulgence in during the Year of St Joseph. Let us now ask St Joseph to pray for us, to bring our prayers to Jesus, and to help us to also put ourselves at the service of God's plan for salvation. We now pray the prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII:

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH BY POPE LEO XIII

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and imploring the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.
