

## Shrine to St Joseph at Our Lady Crowned Church



## Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

With the Apostolic Letter “**Patris corde**” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from the 8th December 2020, to the 8th December 2021.

## Praying to Saint Joseph this year

Pope Francis, who has had a statue of a sleeping St. Joseph on his desk for decades, brought the statue he had in Argentina with him to the Vatican. He tells us of his personal devotion – when he is facing a problem or difficulty he writes it down on paper and slips the paper under the statue of the sleeping Saint Joseph so that he can dream about it.

In this action Pope Francis says to Saint Joseph “Pray for this problem”. We too during this year dedicated to Saint Joseph are invited to give our problems and difficulties over to him, asking him to dream and pray with us. Pope Francis reminds us that it was during his sleep that God revealed his will to Joseph as he dreamt about his problems in life.



Here in Our Lady Crowned Church, Mayfield, we have our new shrine to Saint Joseph and you can write down your problems, difficulties and petitions and place them in the shrine beside the sleeping Joseph and ask him to pray and dream with you. Every Friday we will empty the box and place all your petitions on our altar during the 9:30am Mass as we pray together.



### **The history of the Statue of Saint Joseph**

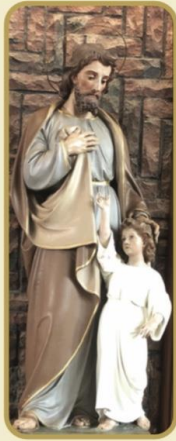
Our new shrine which we have been working on since Christmas dedicated to Saint Joseph has a statue of him with the child Jesus gifted to us by the Ursuline Sisters, Blackrock, Cork.

It was in May 1771 that the first four Cork Ursuline Sisters arrived in Cork, having completed their Novitiate in Paris, to assist Nano Nagle in her education of the poor in the “hedge schools” she had established around the city during what was Penal Times.

In 1825 the Ursuline Sisters purchased a house in Blackrock to cater for the needs of their community and boarding school. Two years later in 1827 the sisters began the extension to the west side of the house as a Chapel blessed in August 1827 by Bishop Murphy. It was not for another two years that the decoration of the Chapel was completed.

This statue of Saint Joseph with Jesus stood to the right hand side of the altar and Our Lady on the left hand side. Since the sisters moved out of the convent to a new house in 2003 the statues have stood in the old mortuary chapel which was incorporated into the new convent as an entrance to the cemetery. It is believed that the Statue that we have in our church is close on 200 years old.


Copies of these special prayer cards are now available in Our Lady Crowned Church, please take one home with you and pray together as a family during this special year dedicated to St Joseph.



*Prayer to*  
**ST. 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.

[www.olcmayfield.ie](http://www.olcmayfield.ie) **AMEN**



*Prayer to Sleeping St Joseph*

*O St Joseph,  
You are a man greatly favoured by the Most High.  
The angel of the Lord appeared to you in dreams,  
to warn you and guide you as you cared for the  
Holy Family.  
You were both silent and strong,  
a loyal and courageous protector.*

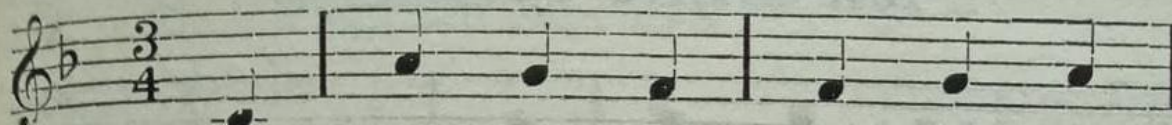
*Dear St Joseph, as you rest in the Lord,  
confident of His absolute power and goodness,  
look upon me.*

*Please take my need (mention your request)  
into your heart, dream of it,  
and present it to your Son.  
Help me then, St Joseph,  
to hear the voice of God,  
to arise, and act with love,  
I praise and thank God with joy.*

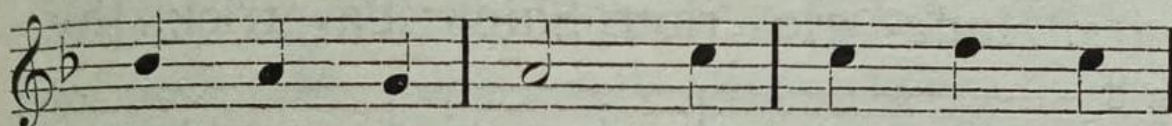
***St Joseph, I love you. Amen***

[www.olcmayfield.ie](http://www.olcmayfield.ie)

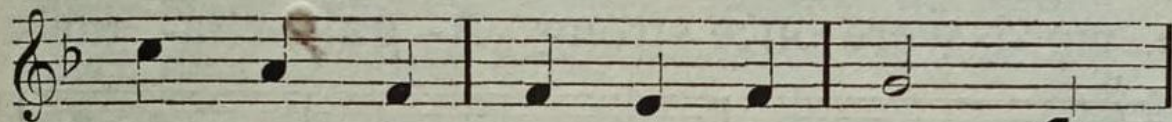
## 100. SAINT JOSEPH.



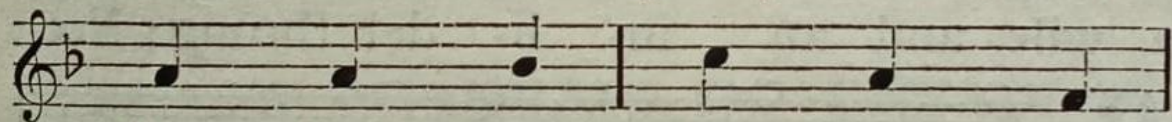
1. O bless- ed Saint Jo- seph! how  
2. For thou to the pil- grim art



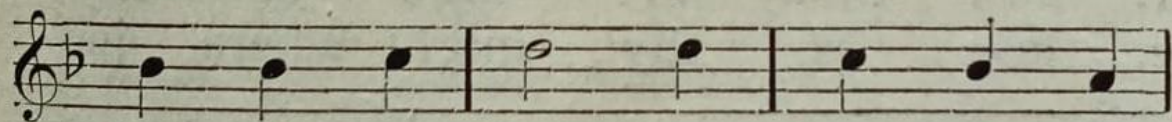
1. great was thy worth, The one cho- sen  
2. fa- ther and guide, And Je- sus and



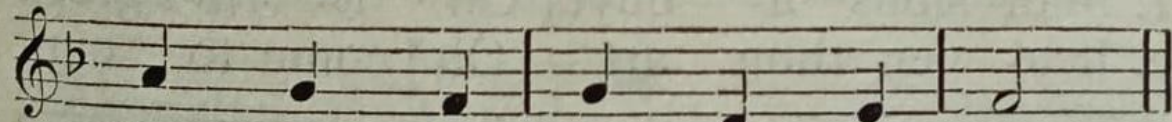
1. sha- dow of God up- on earth. Called  
2. Ma- ry felt safe by thy side; Ah,



1. Fa- ther of Je- sus, ah,  
2. bles- sed Saint Jo- seph, how



1. then wilt thou be, Sweet Spouse of Our  
2. safe should I be, Sweet Spouse of Our



1. La- dy! a fa- ther to me.  
2. La- dy! if thou wert with me.

3.

When the treasures of God were unsheltered on earth,  
Safe-keeping was found for them both in thy worth;  
O Father of Jesus, be father to me,  
Sweet Spouse of Our Lady, and I will love thee.

EDITOR

FR. FABER.

## Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

With the Apostolic Letter “**Patris corde**” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled **Patris corde** (“With a Father’s Heart”), 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.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

### Church grants plenary indulgence for year of St. Joseph

The Holy Father wrote **Patris corde** against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly 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.”

### A beloved, tender, obedient father

Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people” (PC, 1). In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized. “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” – because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us” (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation” (3).

### Welcoming the will of God

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” – an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*” – which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility

for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

### **A creatively courageous father, example of love**

*Patris corde* highlights "the creative courage" of St. Joseph, which "emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties." "The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot "be other than the guardian of the Church," of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. "Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, and every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect." From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, "we must learn... to love the Church and the poor" (5).

### **A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work**

"A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," St Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." This aspect of Joseph's character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become "a burning social issue" even in countries with a certain level of well-being. "There is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron," the Pope writes.

Work, he says, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded." Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!" (6).

### **A father "in the shadows," centred on Mary and Jesus**

Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* – a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński – Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father."

"Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child." Unfortunately, in today's society, children "often seem orphans, lacking fathers" who are able to introduce them "to life and reality." Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities."

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a "most chaste" father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus." Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: "In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

True fathers, instead, "refuse to live the lives of their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that "he is most a father and an educator at the point when he

becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father" (7).

### **A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge**

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary." This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," on account of its closing words: "My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power."

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

**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.**

*08/12/2020*

**Further information from:**

**Website: [www.olcmayfield.ie](http://www.olcmayfield.ie)**

**email: [office@olcmayfield.ie](mailto:office@olcmayfield.ie)**

**Facebook: Our Lady Crowned Church Mayfield**