

Living into Mystery:

Living on the edges with Hato Hohepa (St Joseph)

Gathering:

Sit quietly and allow the Divine Presence to settle around you. Gaze at the image and the words and allow them to resonate in you. Breathe in the life of the universe ... breathe out love



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“Ask Joseph to make you humble. He can and will do wonders for you if only you ask him.”

Julian Tenison Woods

We see in St Joseph a perfect mirror of confidence in God- a wonderful, unbounded confidence in our good God.”

Mary MacKillop

CONTEXT

The Josephite vision at this time:

LIVING INTO MYSTERY

“Living on the edges of our existence with Joseph, as we continue to re-imagine the gospel of Jesus, the Christ.” (*Srs of St Joseph 26th General Chapter*)

Hato Hohepa te Whakarongo (St Joseph the Listener)

Joseph heard and obeyed. The word obey comes from the Latin oboedire –

to pay attention to – to give ear... literally to listen to – from ob (to) and audire (listen/hear).

It is interesting to think of Joseph having an “ear to the ground”... as today we would listen to the challenges which our new ecological knowledge puts before us.

“When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took Mary as his wife” Matthew 1:24

How do I give ear to the gospel and the “signs of the present time”?

What messages do I actually put into action?

What is planet Earth saying to me at this point in its life?

Refugee

St Joseph,

You of all people understand the fears of refugees and their families who are forced to flee their homeland because of violence and persecution, hunted and left without protection or support.

You appreciate the fears of immigrants and their families who are in danger and at risk of separation from one another, without a place to lay their heads. Guide them to shelter, to a warm bed, and to a place of safety.

We ask that you help us to be more welcoming to the refugee who is yet not familiar with our customs and our way of life, to the immigrant who does not speak our language, to the unaccompanied migrant child, separated from her parents, scared and alone.

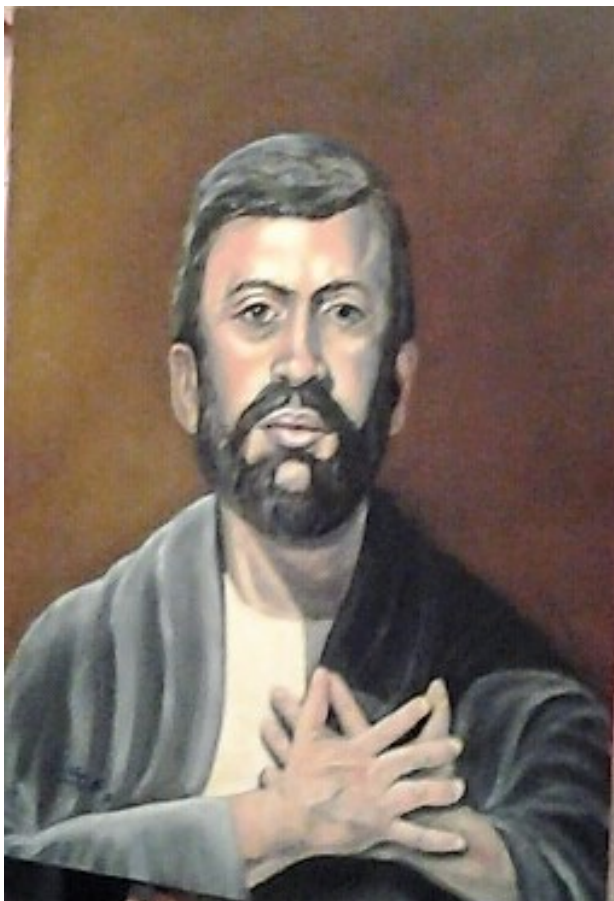
Please give us the strength to reach out a hand to help and the courage to oppose every injustice perpetuated against these vulnerable peoples.

Amen

Joseph the Father showed:

- * Determination to make a decision when faced with a complex problem (Mary's pregnancy)
- * A strong sense of duty – going to Bethlehem for the Roman census and doing his best to provide safety for the birth to take place
- * Courage when faced with the risk of deadly persecution by Herod
- * Commitment to seeing through his task, even through the anguish and austerity that the exile to Egypt brought to his family
- * Wise decision making – hiding the family back in Nazareth for safety
- * The exercise of authority and ability to impose limits – when Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem
- * The ability to pass on skills – Jesus too was an artisan and carpenter
- * A relationship with God which served as a model for Jesus

What do you think is the standout point in the fatherhood of Joseph?
How can we encourage fathers to be strong in their identity, yet appropriate for our times?



Parent

O God:
Help us become, in the spirit of St Joseph, parents and caretakers, knowing that our children and those under our care are first, and ultimately yours.

Even those of our very flesh and blood are not our own creation. You, O God, are the origin of all, the final judge of all- and we parents are not owners but stewards and recipients of gifts.

May your gifts of grace those entrusted to our care make their way into our heart.
May we perceive responsibility as an opportunity to celebrate and our tasks as moments of interacting with the Divine Eternal, the always Present Love.

RESPONDING: - prayers / own prayers/ music

- ◆ Let us listen to our dreams to discover where God is calling us to
May we, like Joseph, give ear to the signs in our time.
- ◆ Let us support parents, especially those bringing up children alone
May we, like Joseph, give ear to the signs in our time.
- ◆ Let us reach out in love to welcome refugees within our community
May we, like Joseph, give ear to the signs in our time.
- ◆ May we be courageous and prepared to take risks to help those in need
May we, like Joseph, give ear to the signs in our time.

Invitation to include other prayers ...

Song: You Tube “Joseph’s Song” by Michael Card

BLESSING: Hato Hohepa

May the Spirit of Joseph touch us
May the deep listening of Joseph influence us
May Joseph’s sense of responsibility move us
May Joseph’s openness to others work in us
May the risk taking of Joseph inspire us

Amene



JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS AOTEAROA

As we walk in the footsteps of Julian and Mary, we Josephite Companions Aotearoa respond to the Gospel by reverencing the Sacred in ourselves, others and our environment.

We do this in the ordinariness of our everyday lives by:

- Living simply and prayerfully
- Acting justly with integrity
- Responding to the needs of our time
- Being thankful for God’s love
- Providing inclusive hospitality and down-to-earth practicality in the spirit of Aroha.

