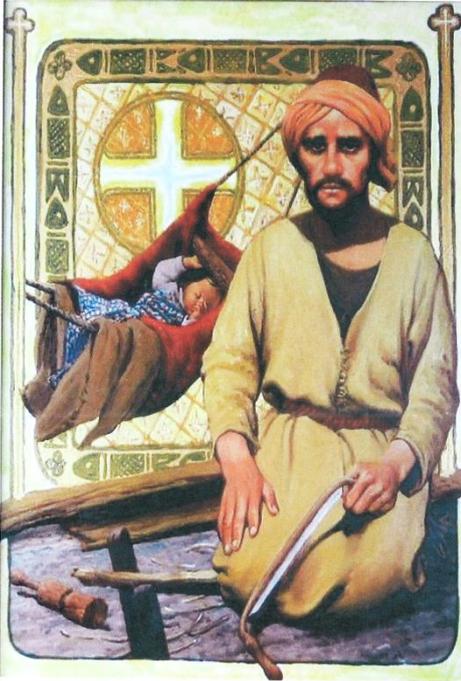


PRAYER SHEET - MARCH 2021

‘YEAR OF ST JOSEPH 12/2020-2021’

GATHERING:



Sit quietly and gaze at the image of Joseph the Protector of Mary and Jesus. Breathe out anxiety/fear and breathe in courage and peace.

LISTENING:

These are excerpts from Pope Francis’ letter called Patris corde (With a Father’s heart) proclaiming the Year of St Joseph on this 150th anniversary of Joseph being declared the Patron/protector of the Universal Church.

- *COVID-19 has shown us more clearly the importance of “ordinary people” who, though far from the limelight exercise patience and offer hope every day. They resemble St Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in our salvation”*
- *“In our world today where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph’s unconditional acceptance of Mary, setting aside his own ideas and trusting events that he does not understand is a beacon of hope and example of fortitude.*
- *Joseph showed creative courage, trusting in divine providence. He is the special patron of all those forced to leave their native land because of war, poverty and persecution in our times*
- *We need, through Joseph, to rediscover the value and necessity of work for all – to cooperate with God to - in some way, become creators of the world around us.*

BREAKING OPEN:

Take time to reflect on these excerpts and then share how these resonate with your life - home, family, work and world at this time.

RESPONDING: Joseph be with us

Bless all who work in the shadows to preserve our health at this time.

Response:

Help us to welcome strangers with warmth and generosity

Response:

May our society provide the dignity of work for all

Response:

In these uncertain times help us to trust

Response:

Share any personal prayers

PRAYER: (Pope Francis' conclusion)

*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.



BLESSING:

May the Spirit of Joseph touch us,
his deep listening influence us.
Joseph's trust in providence move us,
His openness to others work in us,
and his ability to take risks inspire us. Amen.