



**With a Father's Heart
Clonfert Diocesan Novena
to St. Joseph**

In the Year of St. Joseph 2021

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On the 8th of December 2020, Pope Francis declared that 2021 would be a special Year of St. Joseph. Although descended from the royal house of David, Joseph was an ordinary manual labourer. Scripture tells little of his story except that he was husband of Mary and Foster-Father of Jesus. Nonetheless, his modest presence as part of the Holy Family is constant. Tradition holds that Joseph died sometime before Jesus began his public ministry.

Announcing the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis said: "Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – 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". (*Patris Corde, 2021*)

Devotion to St. Joseph

There has been a long-standing tradition of invoking the intercession of St. Joseph. St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) wrote: "I wish I could persuade everyone to be devoted to the glorious St. Joseph, for I have great experience of the blessings which he can obtain from God. I do not remember that I have ever asked anything of him which he has failed to grant. I am astonished at the great favours which God has bestowed on me through this blessed saint, and at the perils from which he has delivered me, both in body and in soul."
(*Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*)

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker – May 1st

During the Liturgical Year, St. Joseph has two feast days. The first is March 19th - Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second is May 1st - Joseph, the Worker. In 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker as an opportunity for people to contemplate not only the figure of St. Joseph but also the importance of human work in God's plan for humanity. St. Joseph, the carpenter, and foster father of Jesus is but one example of the holiness of such human labour.

What is a Novena?

The word Novena is derived from the Latin novem meaning nine. It is a nine-day journey of private or public prayer to obtain special graces or to implore special favours.

Praying a Novena

Set aside some time during each of the nine days for prayer. Open up your heart and your life to God. Take time to speak with him. Time to bring to him those areas in your life, in others' lives and in our world that need his help at this time. Each day prayers are provided to help you on the journey.

St. Joseph and the Diocese of Clonfert

The Parishes of Killimor and Tiranascragh and Ballinakill and Derrybrien have churches dedicated to St. Joseph. St. Joseph's College, Garbally is under the patronage of St. Joseph.



Diocese of Clonfert
www.clonfertdiocese.ie