

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

In the Year of St. Joseph 2021

Year of St. Joseph 2021

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.



Day One – Friday 23rd April

St. Joseph, Open to God

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

And suddenly the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one to save his people from their sins." (Mt. 1:20-21)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also for: A greater sense of the majesty of God in the beauty of the natural world around us. A greater appreciation of the gift of life and the wonderfulness of living. Those who are searching for meaning and direction in life.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Two – Saturday 24th April

St. Joseph, a Man of Faith

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

"When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home ..." (Mt 1:24)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also: That our faith may be strengthened. That people of faith may share their faith and live lives that are attractive to others. That we may take more responsibility for our Christian community and for leading the young in the ways of faith.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Three – Sunday 25th April

St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph of the House of David and the virgin's name was Mary." (Lk 1:26-27)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also for: Husbands and wives. For those who are engaged. For relationships that are vulnerable or broken. For those who are single and for those who have become Priests or religious.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Four – Monday 26th April

St. Joseph, Foster-Father of Jesus

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

"He went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority."
(Lk. 2:52)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also for: Fathers both living and those who have gone home to God. Fathers who find it difficult being fathers and for families where there are strained relations between father and child.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Five – Tuesday 27th April

St. Joseph, Refugee

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

"After they had left, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him." So Joseph got up and taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt where he stayed until Herod was dead" (Mt 1:13-15)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

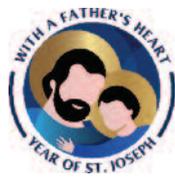
In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also for: Refugees and those who care for them. For those who are persecuted, suffer from warfare, violence or oppression. The poor, the homeless, those who live with addiction of any kind. Those who feel excluded from society and even the Church.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Six - Wednesday 28th April

St. Joseph, Patron of the Family

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

"Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us". So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. (Lk. 2:15-16)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also for: Members of your own family. For families throughout the world. For families experiencing difficulties. For reconciliation among family members.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Seven – Thursday 29th April

St. Joseph, Friend of the Dying

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

"Near the cross of Jesus, stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman this is your son". Then to the disciple he said, "This is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." (Jn 19: 25-27)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also for: Those who are sick. Those who are terminally ill. Those who are dying. Those who are afraid of dying. For a renewed faith in life after death and for consolation for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Eight – Friday 30th April 2021

St. Joseph, Patron of the Church

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to God's Word ...

"Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture." (Patris Corde, 2021)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

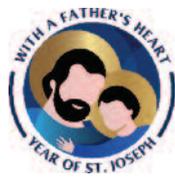
In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph's hands. Please pray also for: The People of God who form the Church throughout the world. For Pope Francis and all those who lead God's People. For the Church to be a true witness to the Gospel and a beacon of hope for humanity.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.
Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Day Nine – Saturday May 1st 2021

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

Find some quiet place. Perhaps have before you an image of St. Joseph. If you wish, light a candle and begin your prayer.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Listen to Pope Francis ...

“Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour.” (Patris Corde, 2021)

Pause to reflect

Pray 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. **Amen**

In silence, place your prayers and petitions in St. Joseph’s hands. Please pray also for: Satisfaction and joy in our work. For those who are unemployed. For those whose work is unrewarding. For those exploited for profit.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

St. Joseph, Man of Faith, Friend of God, Husband of Mary, Guardian of Jesus.

Pray to God for us!

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. **Amen**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



Diocese of Clonfert
www.clonfertdiocese.ie