

# RESOURCE PACK

For Families, Schools & Parishes to celebrate  
the Year of St Joseph & The Family

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These resources are available electronically on the Diocesan website -  
[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/stjosephandthefamily/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/stjosephandthefamily/)



*Photo by Michael O’Sullivan on Unsplash*

# INTRODUCTION

## **The Year of St Joseph & the Family - March 2021 - 2022**

Although it may not be frequently mentioned, St Joseph is a Principal Patron of our Diocese. We will be celebrating his feast day on 19<sup>th</sup> March and we need to mark that day in a special way this year because Pope Francis has dedicated this year to St Joseph and the Family. That announcement was probably overshadowed by so much news about the pandemic but we have the year to remind ourselves of the important role of St Joseph in the history of our Faith and his example to us in his role as a protector and guardian of Mary and the child Jesus. In the secular age in which we live, we have a special need to “protect” the sense of Faith and all that it can provide for our world when we put gospel values into action to establish peace, the dignity of every human being, the sanctity of life from conception to its natural end and to eradicate poverty and suffering.

It is too easy to think of St Joseph as just one of the saints whose statues we see in many churches, or in the crib at Christmas. But his influence is strong, as a model of the best qualities of manhood, in providing security and well-being for his family and for his trust in all that God was asking of him. He has been the inspiration in the founding charism of several religious orders, including the Mill Hill Missionaries and the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph, founded in this Diocese.

We marked his goodness for many years in this Diocese particularly in what was known as “St Joseph’s Penny”, a collection for the poor and the needy, which became a foundation of the present valuable work of Caritas and its wide range of projects and programmes for those most in need in our towns and cities.

In this Diocese we will mark The Year of St Joseph and the Family together from 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

St Joseph, pray for us.



**Bishop John Arnold**

**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. Saint 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.**

**Pope Francis**

# THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, on the pastoral care of families, Pope Francis is calling for a Year of the Family from **19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. The Church has always taught the importance of the Domestic Church and throughout the year we will be providing resources for families to pray together at home.

Further resources can be found here:

[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/hope/home-school-parish/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/hope/home-school-parish/)

[www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html](http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html)

You may like to listen to a hymn written for the World Meeting of Families 2018 called 'A Joy for all the Earth' by Ephrem Feeley

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=APiQ0KM2PqQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APiQ0KM2PqQ)



DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING LINKS  
**HOME | SCHOOL | PARISH**

## Prayer at Home Prayer Focus

God is present in each member of our family, especially when we pray together. At the back of this pack (appendix A) there is a special gift to you from Bishop John to help you to pray at Home.

You may wish to put this prayer focus in a special place, along with any other prayer cards, a cross and a light. Reflect on the images and pray for each other.

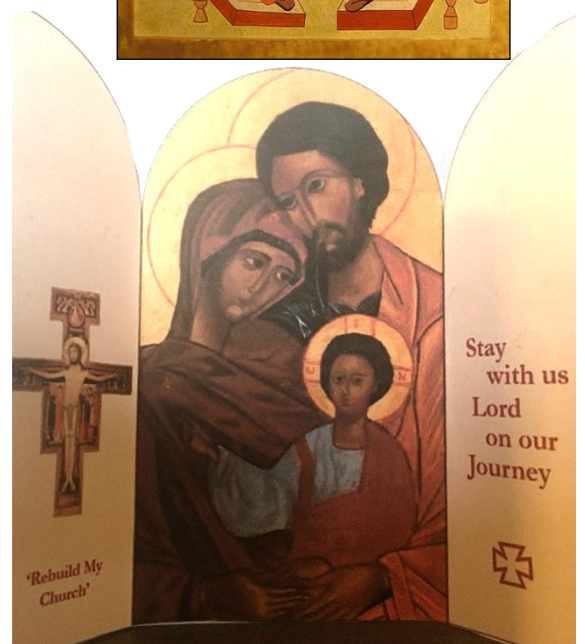
When you close the prayer focus, the Cross on the left door is the image for Hope in the Future in our Diocese. Jesus asks us and St Francis to 'Rebuild His Church'.

Bishop John invites us to say our Diocesan prayer each day asking God to 'Stay with us on our Journey' which is shown on the right door.

The image on the inside in the centre shows the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary & Joseph) which is a reflection of the Holy Trinity and your family. The icon on the front is of the Holy Trinity painted by Andrei Rublev. Notice there is a space at the table for you and your family to join God in prayer.

You may wish to print as one page, then cut out and stick together or print back-to-back.

© 2021 - *The Holy Family of Bethlehem* by Fr Chris Gorton, *Cross at San Damiano* and the *Trinity* by Andrei Rublev. Andrei Rublev, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



## Prayers for families

Dear Mother of God,  
we are gathered together  
to unite our hearts  
to the heart of your Son and your heart.  
We begin a special time  
where we want to strengthen  
the bonds of love within our family.  
Implore for us the Holy Spirit.  
May He teach us today,  
to confidently walk the same path  
as the Holy Family of Nazareth.  
We give to you all that we are and have,  
our daily challenges, our children,  
and our unity and faithfulness as a couple.  
We want to feel safe in your motherly hands,  
and united to your Son  
renew our faith, hope and love.  
Dear Mother, stay with us  
and teach us to walk with you,  
and with your Son Jesus.  
May we always walk with each other  
and with our children.  
Amen.

God, Our Father,  
loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect  
unity of love and mutual support.  
Instil in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other.  
Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instil  
forgiveness and peace.  
May the mutual love and affection of parents set a good example.  
Instil in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature  
independence.  
May the mutual affection and respect of families be a sign of Christian life here and  
hereafter, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.

O God, who were pleased to give us  
the shining example of the Holy Family,  
graciously grant that we may imitate them  
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,  
and so, in the joy of your house,  
delight one day in eternal rewards.  
Amen.

(Collect from the Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday after Christmas Day)



# THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis has also called for the Year of St Joseph from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**. St Joseph has two feast days, 19th March (Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity) and 1st May (St Joseph the Worker) and Wednesdays associated with St Joseph.

Fr Michael Deas provides a short reflection on 'Who is St Joseph?' here - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0YYmH0k03c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0YYmH0k03c)

## Prayers to St Joseph

Pope Francis has encouraged us to say this prayer each day, asking the intercession of St Joseph, pillar of families and protector of Holy Church:

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.



*Fr Donald Calloway*

## Litany of St Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.  
*Christ, have mercy on us.*  
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.  
*Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, *pray for us.*  
Illustrious son of David, *pray for us.*  
Light of patriarchs, *pray for us.*  
Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*  
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*  
Foster father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*  
Watchful defender of Christ, *pray for us.*  
Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*

Joseph most just, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most valiant, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most obedient, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most faithful, *pray for us.*  
Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*  
Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*  
Model of workmen, *pray for us.*  
Glory of home life, *pray for us.*  
Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*



*Mazur/cbcew.org.uk*

Pillar of families, *pray for us.*  
Solace of the afflicted, *pray for us.*

Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*  
Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*  
Terror of demons, *pray for us.*  
Protector of Holy Church, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,  
*Spare us, O Lord!*  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,  
*Graciously hear us, O Lord!*  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy on us!*

V. He made him the lord of His household,  
R. *And prince over all His possessions.*

#### *Let Us Pray*

O God, Who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Prayer Before Work to St. Joseph the Worker**

O Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labour, obtain for me the grace to work in a spirit of penance for the expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations; to work with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honour to employ and develop by means of labour the gifts received from God; to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience, never shrinking from weariness and trials; to work above all with purity of intention and detachment from self, keeping unceasingly before my eyes death and the account that I must give of time lost, talents unused, good omitted, and vain complacency in success, so fatal to the work of God. All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after thy example, O Patriarch, Saint Joseph. Such shall be my watch-word in life and in death. Amen.  
(Composed by Pope St. Pius X)

#### **Memorare to St. Joseph**

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

#### **Consecration to St. Joseph**

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honour and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death Amen.

#### **St. Joseph's Holy Cloak Novena**

<https://www.knightsoftheholyeucharist.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Novena-Saint-Joseph-Holy-Cloak.pdf>

## Recommended reading

Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father - Fr Don Calloway -  
[www.cathedralcentrebooks.com/Consecration-to-St-Joseph-The-Wonders-of-Our-Spiritual-Father\\_9781596144316](http://www.cathedralcentrebooks.com/Consecration-to-St-Joseph-The-Wonders-of-Our-Spiritual-Father_9781596144316)

With a father heart - Patris Corde - Pope Francis  
[www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)

Devotions to St Joseph (Seven joys/sorrows and The Chaste Heart of St. Joseph) - Diocese of Charlotte

[www.yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/](http://www.yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/)

St Joseph's Table (Father's day in Italy is 19<sup>th</sup> March) where food is shared with those in need

[www.yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/st-joseph-table/](http://www.yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/st-joseph-table/)

Patronages of St. Joseph

[www.yearofstjoseph.org/patronages/](http://www.yearofstjoseph.org/patronages/)

Year of St. Joseph Indulgences

[www.yearofstjoseph.org/indulgences/](http://www.yearofstjoseph.org/indulgences/)

Why celebrate a Year of St Joseph?

[www.yearofstjoseph.org/honor/](http://www.yearofstjoseph.org/honor/)

## Hymns to St Joseph

Joseph's Song - Michael Card

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hINfyhuTt0>

St. Joseph's Song - Dana

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zS6xmKfp8nE>

Litany of St. Joseph Sung - Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZkN1laf3KM>



***"I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of St. Joseph which he has failed to grant."***

***St. Teresa of Avila***



*Joseph, O Joseph, we bring you our cares.  
We need your courage and ask for your prayers.  
You were loved by God, chosen by God,  
faithful to God through it all.  
Humble and obedient,  
following your call.*

So did Mary feel fear as the baby drew near?  
When the starlight on Bethlehem shone down so clear?  
Did you hold her in your arms,  
shield her from harms, calm her alarms?  
Joining your prayers, singing the psalms,  
with words that would tell.  
All shall be well, God's in control,  
He guards your soul.  
He won't abandon you,  
our God is true

On the long road of flight in the dead of the night,  
On the journey to Egypt no end was in sight.  
And your home so far away  
day after day, nowhere to stay,  
under the stars, humbly you'd say,  
in faith you would dwell.  
All shall be well, God's in control,  
He guards your soul.  
He won't abandon you,  
our God is true.

And when Jesus grew tall and stepped up to the call,  
As the Pharisees plotted and planned for his fall.  
Did you sometimes wonder why,  
kiss him goodbye, tear in your eye?  
Holding him close, in fear he would die,  
Though prophets foretell?  
All shall be well, God's in control,  
He guards your soul,  
He won't abandon you,  
Our God is true.

A recording of the song, along with the sheet music and a backing track will be released on the Diocesan website for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (1<sup>st</sup> May).

***“When God wishes to raise a soul to greater heights, he unites it to  
St Joseph by giving it a strong love for the good saint.”***

***St Peter Julian Eymard***

# RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

## Dreaming St Joseph

A few years ago, while visiting the Philippines, Pope Francis wove his love for St. Joseph into an address on prayer and family. Specifically, he spoke about a statue he has on his desk of the Sleeping St. Joseph. From the Gospels, we know that St. Joseph listened to God in his dreams and then rose to act on His will. Pope Francis shared with his audience that he asks St. Joseph to pray for his intentions by writing them down and slipping the paper under the statue of St. Joseph.



You could make your own by following this guide  
[www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2017/03/sleeping-st-joseph.html](http://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2017/03/sleeping-st-joseph.html)

or buy one below.

## Sleeping Joseph Card

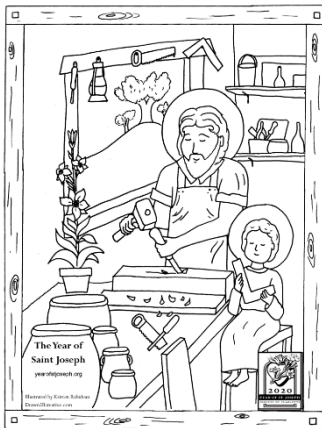


Triangular Prism with a prayer card from Pope Francis and pieces of paper to write your prayer intentions on to put underneath sleeping Joseph.

Only £1.00 each (plus postage & packaging) from Christian Resources.

Collection by appointment - 38 Kentstone Ave, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4 3RE.

Call 07982 280 024 or email [annietipper@gmail.com](mailto:annietipper@gmail.com)



## Colouring Printable for Kids

Let your little ones learn to love St. Joseph while having fun with colouring. St Joseph and Jesus at work.

*With thanks to the Diocese of Charlotte and Drawn2Bcreative.com.*

<http://28hzum3oxr6o49c3kc44xkxw-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/03/Year-of-Saint-Joseph-Coloring-Page.pdf>

*Image - Mission Together*



# RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

## Launch Assemblies for Feast day 19<sup>th</sup> March:

Primary/Secondary Schools & Youth - available at [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/resource-centre/education/collective-worship/collectiveworship-stjoseph/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/resource-centre/education/collective-worship/collectiveworship-stjoseph/)

Mission Together Resources - [www.missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/feast-of-st-joseph/](http://www.missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/feast-of-st-joseph/)

## Meditating on the 7 Joys of St. Joseph

These will be presented as PowerPoints with videos and uploaded to the website each month based on the following themes:

### **APRIL - The Angel's Message of Joy**

"As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.'" - Matthew 1:20

THEME: JOSEPH MOST FAITHFUL  
ACTION: PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN GOD

### **MAY - The Saviour's Birth**

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" - Luke 2:10-11

THEME: JOSEPH - MODEL OF WORKERS  
ACTION: CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

### **JUNE - Having the Honour of Naming Jesus**

"and he did not know her until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus." - Matthew 1:25

THEME: JOSEPH MOST OBEDIENT  
ACTION: PRAY THE ROSARY - THE ANNUNCIATION

## **JULY - Knowing the effects of Jesus' Redemptive Work**

*"She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem." - Luke 2:38*

THEME: JOSEPH - LOVER OF POVERTY

ACTION: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR/STAND UP FOR WEAK

## **SEPTEMBER - The Idols of Egypt Fell at Jesus' Feet**

*"A prophecy against Egypt: See, the Lord rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him and the hearts of the Egyptians melt with fear." - Isaiah 19:1*

THEME: JOSEPH MOST COURAGEOUS

ACTION: PROMISE OF PRAYER IN OUR DAILY LIVES

## **OCTOBER - Holy life with Jesus and Mary**

*"When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth." - Luke 2:39*

THEME: JOSEPH - PILLAR OF FAMILIES

ACTION: PRAY AS A FAMILY AND FOR FAMILIES

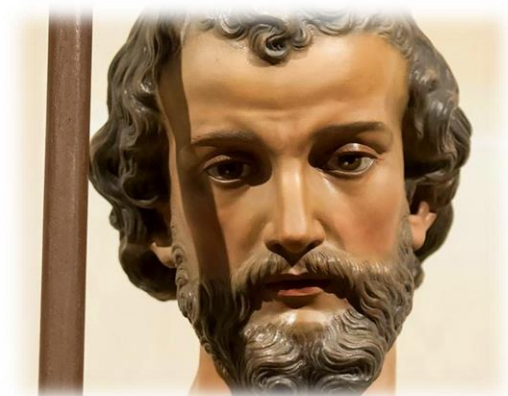
## **NOVEMBER - Finding Jesus after three days**

*"After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions." - Luke 2:46*

THEME: JOSEPH - PROTECTOR OF THE HOLY CHURCH

ACTION: PRAY FOR THE POPE, BISHOPS, PREISTS, DEACONS AND LAITY

**St. Joseph, watch over me  
and care for me just as you cared for  
the child Jesus; and by your help,  
may I come to know your Son,  
and so grow in strength  
and wisdom and the favour of God.  
Amen.**



## St Joseph inspires Caritas to be “creatively courageous”

In his Apostolic Letter on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 2020, proclaiming the start of ‘The Year of St Joseph’, Pope Francis describes St Joseph as “a tender loving father...who is creatively courageous”. Caritas can have no more fitting a patron than St Joseph, the tender loving foster father of Jesus, for several of its services including, Service for Older People, Service to the Deaf Community and of course for its annual schools’ Lenten charitable giving appeal, St Joseph’s Penny.

Drawing their inspiration from St Joseph, being “creatively courageous” has certainly proved to be a key factor in Caritas’s ability to adapt and sustain its services and fundraising activities during the last year of restrictions due to the pandemic.

The famous St Joseph’s Penny collection boxes are being ‘rested’ this year during #LockdownLent, to comply with a need for safer ways to donate including online and text giving. Our schools have stepped up to the challenge however by creating their own collection boxes and jars, setting up Just Giving pages linked to the campaign, in some cases setting a fundraising target of £1904 - the year of the very first St Joseph’s Penny school collection and setting whole school community fundraising challenges such as collectively running the equivalent length of the Camino de Santiago, to name but a few examples. Using social media to reach their wider school communities and share ideas and successes has proved invaluable.

Other schools have contributed to Caritas’s Lenten Pray-Fast-Give resources by providing daily prayers written by pupils on the themes of Catholic Social Teaching, bringing the wider community together in prayer each day. Caritas is very grateful to all our schools for their continued commitment to the campaign in very challenging circumstances.

Times may have changed but the willingness of children to help other children and families in need has clearly not diminished since the day the first St Joseph’s Penny campaign was launched in our schools in 1904 by Bishop Herbert Vaughan, who was the Bishop of Salford at this time.

Bishop Vaughan was a man of great vision who cared deeply about the growing number of cold, hungry children without parents and living on the streets, who were also being drawn away from the Catholic Church. He sought the help of religious sisters to care for such children, including Alice Ingham from Rochdale. As a young girl Alice felt called by God to care for the poor children of the town and as an adult, she followed her vocation and became Sister Mary Francis from the Order of the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph. Together with Bishop Vaughan, she set up homes for orphaned children. As a result, in 1886 the Catholic Children’s Rescue Society (CCRS) was founded to continue this vital work but how could it be paid for? That’s when Bishop Vaughan, came up with the “creatively courageous” idea of the St Joseph’s Penny Appeal, asking all the children in all the schools to donate one penny. The first collection in 1904 raised 55,217 pennies. This amounts to around £230 today.

We like to think Bishop Vaughan and Alice Ingham would approve of how the St Joseph’s Penny schools’ appeal has continued to stay in our hearts and evolve to meet changing needs and in this Year of St Joseph and as we approach the Solemnity of St Joseph on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, let us give grateful thanks for the tender loving father figure who humbly continues to inspire us all to be, as Pope Francis so aptly puts it, “creatively courageous”. To access St Joseph’s Penny learning resources, weekly prayers and ways to donate, please go to <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/sjp2021/>

The image is a composite graphic. At the top left is a black and white portrait of Bishop Herbert Vaughan. To its right are three purple icons: a person in prayer, a fish (representing fasting), and a hand holding a heart. Below these icons is the text "#LockdownLent". At the bottom left is a St. Joseph's Penny Lenten Collection box, which is a grid of numbers from 1 to 60, with a small illustration of St. Joseph and the Christ Child. At the bottom right is the Caritas Salford logo, which includes the word "Caritas" in red and a small crest.



# RESOURCES FOR PARISHES

## Suggested ways for parishes to celebrate the Year of St Joseph:

- Offer the Votive Mass of St. Joseph on Wednesdays, the traditional day given to his honour.
- Recite a prayer to St. Joseph after daily Masses, such as the Litany of St. Joseph.
- Offer opportunities for parishioners to participate in a 33-day consecration to St Joseph.
- Plan special activities around his feast days (19<sup>th</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> May) and in the month of March.

You can view more resources here [yearofstjoseph.org/resources/](http://yearofstjoseph.org/resources/)

## Suggested ways for parishes to celebrate the Year of the Family:

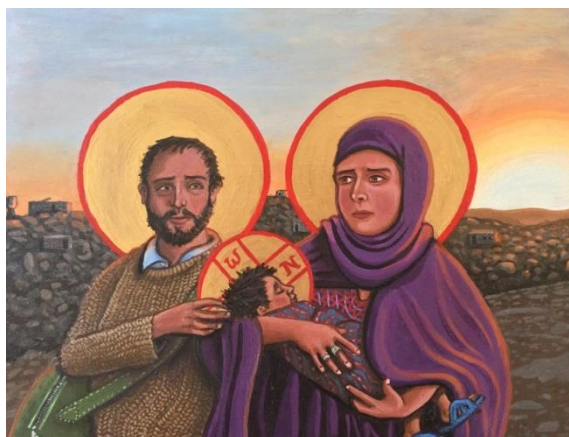
- Celebrate a special Mass for Grandparents and the Elderly - Pope Francis has declared a day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents. The first celebration of this day will be July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Celebrate significant wedding anniversaries and engagements.
- Study Amoris Laetitia in groups.

## Videos

The Year of St Joseph: With a Father's Heart - Diocese of Westminster  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXFQCNOao1Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXFQCNOao1Y)

Pope Francis proclaims Year of St Joseph - Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSN8PFtZclg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSN8PFtZclg)

St Joseph - Catholic Online  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8FAcs6lh\\_A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8FAcs6lh_A)



*Refugees: Holy Family - Latimore, Kelly - Creative Commons Attribution*

**“Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do.”**

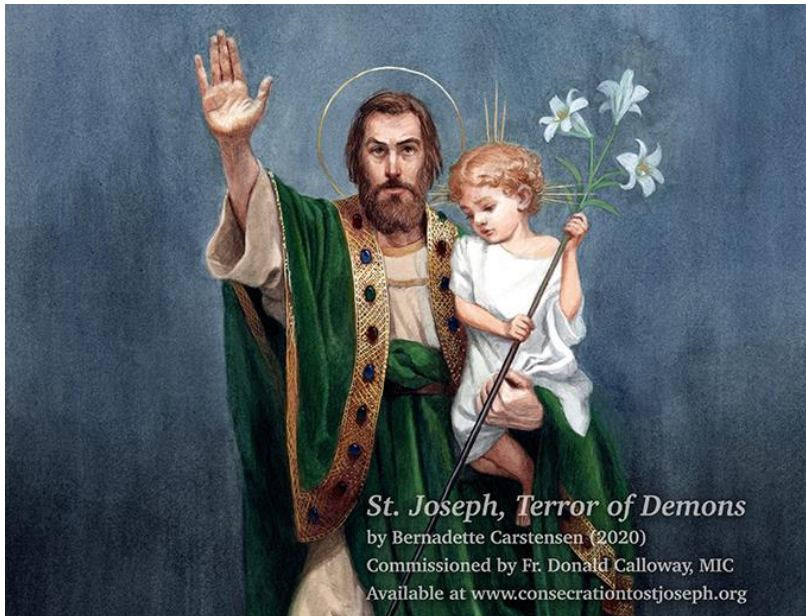
**Genesis 41:55**

## The Modern-Day Holy Family by Ellie Stephens

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Feast of St. Joseph, Ellie Stephens, an A level art student from St. Ambrose Barlow School in Swinton came to Caritas with her family and parish priests to present a special gift of her portrait of St. Joseph. The image is a fascinating portrayal of this humble saint that we know so little about even though he was the husband of Mary and the foster parent of Jesus. Receiving the gift at a simple unveiling service in the St. Joseph Chapel of the Cathedral, Mark Wiggin, Director Caritas said, "Joseph was a just man who took his God given responsibilities to protect Jesus very seriously especially when it meant standing up for Mary who was pregnant out of marriage. This decision to protect Mary and the unborn Jesus was in my opinion the decision of a wise man whose wisdom comes with age and maturity. Your portrait of Joseph the man rather than Joseph the saint captures this brilliantly". Ellie Stephens decided to paint and gift the portrait after listening to all the amazing work Caritas does for in the community and she wanted to give something back. Caritas services all have safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people at their heart. Today our work with Refugee Response, our Foster Care service, Adoption Support service and our Young Parents Homes especially for young mothers and their babies have all evolved out of a sense of Christian service to the most vulnerable, to those who need of protection and safeguarding. Many of the Caritas services are also named after St. Joseph including St. Joseph's Mission to Deaf People and St. Joseph's Welfare Service to Older People as well as the St. Joseph's Penny - a Lenten collection that goes back to 1904. Thanking Ellie for this wonderful gift Mark Wiggin concluded, "The portrait of Joseph will be a permanent reminder to all of us here in Caritas to serve with love, courage and tenderness all who are in need".







*St Joseph - Terror of demons & Protector of Holy Church - Commissioned by Fr Donald Calloway. Available at [www.consecrationtostjoseph.org](http://www.consecrationtostjoseph.org)*



*Taken in St Joseph, Catholic Church in Gaza*  
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*St Joseph Melkite Cathedral in Jerusalem*  
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**Make your own** - you may like to make your own artwork based on St Joseph or the Holy Family. This could be a piece of art, a poem, or a song. Please email these to [communications@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:communications@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) and we will share your creations online.







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**HOME IS A SACRED SPACE**

God is present in each member of our family, especially when we pray together. This is a special gift to you from Bishop John to help you to pray at Home.

You may wish to put this prayer focus in a special place, along with any other prayer cards, a cross and a light. Reflect on the images and pray for each other. When you close the prayer focus, the Cross on the left door is the image for Hope in the Future in our Diocese. Jesus asks us and St Francis to 'Rebuild His Church'. Bishop John invites us to say our Diocesan prayer each day asking God to 'Stay with us on our Journey' which is shown on the right door.

The image on the inside in the centre shows the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary & Joseph) which is a reflection of the Holy Trinity and your family. The icon on the front is of the Holy Trinity painted by Andrei Rublev.

Notice there is a space at the table for you and your family to join God in prayer.

For more information please visit  
[dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/hope](http://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/hope)

**DIocese of SALFORD**

© 2020 – The Holy Family of Bethlehem by Fr Chris Gorton,  
Cross at San Damiano and the Trinity by Andrei Rublev  
The Icon of the Trinity was written by Sr. Mary Charles McGough O.S.B.  
& commissioned by the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery (St. Paul, MN)

