

ST JOSEPH

St Joseph is the foster-father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. St Joseph was specially chosen by God to be the head of the Holy Family. Like Mary, he was a descendant of King David. He was a poor carpenter and taught Our Lord to be a carpenter also. Joseph was a man of great faith and was always obedient to God. We know on three occasions in the Bible when an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The first time is when he was going to divorce Mary because she was having a baby that was not his own. After the visit of the Magi in Bethlehem, Joseph was warned in a dream to “take the child and his Mother and flee to Egypt” because King Herod wanted to kill the baby. The third time an angel told Joseph that it was now safe to return to Jerusalem as King Herod was dead. You can read all about it in the gospel of St Matthew and the gospel of St Luke.

Joseph is not recorded as saying anything in the gospels. We can learn from this that he was a silent man. He loved Mary and Jesus very much and tradition tells us that he died in the arms of Jesus and Mary. That’s why he is the patron saint of a good death. As well as being a patron of the Legion, St. Joseph is also the patron saint of workers, of consecrated religious and of fathers. He is also the go-to saint when buying or selling a house.

His feast day is celebrated on 19th March. He also has another feast day on 1st May – St Joseph the Worker. Pray to St Joseph often. Here is a lovely prayer that you can say every day to ask for St Joseph’s protection:



Memorare to Saint Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of Mary, and my dearly beloved guardian, Saint Joseph, that never was it known that anyone who invoked your care and requested your help was left without consolation. Inspired with this confidence, I come to you, and with all the ardour of my spirit I commend myself to you. Do not reject my prayer, O Foster Father of the Saviour, but graciously receive and answer it. Amen.