

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed this a special 'Year of St. Joseph'. Pope Francis describes St Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Holy Father wrote this against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which he says has helped us see more clearly the importance of 'ordinary' people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this they resemble St Joseph, 'the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence', who nonetheless played 'an incomparable role in the history of salvation'.

Prayer 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.*

