



St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

235-241 Devonshire St (between Crown and Marlborough Streets),
Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948
Email: admin@stpeterssh.org.au
Website: www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au



Most Reverend Danny J Meagher: Bishop in Residence, Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region

Fr. John A Macdonald: Administrator

Fr. Nicola Falzun OP: Priest in Residence for the *Missio ad gentes* of the Neocatechumenal Way

Sunday Masses: 9:00am and 10:30am

Daily Mass: Mon: 10:00am (for The Solemnity of St Joseph); **Tue - Sat:** 10:00am;

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tues – Thurs: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: Fri: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Confessions: Fri: 5:00pm – 5:45pm; **Sat:** 9:30am - 10:00am

Holy Rosary: Daily before Mass

Stations of the Cross: Friday at 5:30pm

Feast Days for the Fourth Week in Lent (Year A)

Mon 20 Mar Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thur 23 Mar Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop

Sat 25 Mar The Annunciation of the Lord

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Roslyn Furber, Patricia Conlan, Patrick Tomelty, Sophie Marden, Grace Moon, Josephine Finneran, Anna Seow, Ricardo Francisco, Catherine Murphy, Adi Soediartha, Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Camilla Pascoe, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay.

Our deceased: Ana Ofelia Sierra Bustamante (18/3, (Indi's mother)), Philomena Smith, John Rogers, Robert Azzopardi (First anniversary, 7/3, [Pauline Ciappara's nephew]), Martin Bonke, Luisa Medina Sanches (First anniversary, 5/2, [Rosa Bravo's mum]), Dannie Southee (23/1/23), Julian Ciappara (First anniversary of death 28/1/22), Maria Helena Trujillo, Newton McMahon, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

Our house bound elderly: Bernadette Hailwood, Robert Pearce, Joyce Regoski, June Holt, Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Patricia Wells.

Partaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognised, served, honoured and loved by us.

Pope Francis
Catechesis on the Mass 2018

On 12th March, following the 9:00am Mass, the classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin in the Convent. The Sacrament preparation for Holy Communion will begin in the month of September. To express your interest or obtain enrolment forms, please contact the Missionaries of Charity Sisters on (02) 9318 2881.

St. Joseph today continues to be a mystery for many Christians. He remains just...
... the older saint that stands behind Mary and Jesus in most Christian art,
... a familiar statue to place in our Nativity sets during Christmas,
... a pious devotional figure for grandmothers or more “traditional Catholics”...

But if the Son of God was willing to learn from Joseph, surely we *all* have something to learn from his invaluable wisdom.

This might be one of the reasons why Pope Francis decided to declare 2021 the “Year of St. Joseph” through his Apostolic Letter, [Patris Corde](#), which is worth reading and meditating upon. (It’s actually pretty short!)

Francis invites the world to consider the fact that personal conversion and reconciliation goes hand in hand with the works of justice and mercy in society. Saint Joseph can be a great model for this difficult but necessary work, blending both deep reflection and action. Here are five lessons St. Joseph wants to teach humanity today.

Lesson #1: Actions Still Speak Louder than Words

St. Joseph speaks a grand total of zero words in the Gospels. He only makes an appearance in two of the four gospels: Matthew and Luke. In fact, the Gospel of Mark doesn’t mention his name at all and the Gospel of John only has two passing references to Jesus as the “the son of Joseph” (John 1:45, 6:42).

Saint Joseph’s hidden life is his statement. He is the quintessential model of the phrase: “Actions speak louder than words.” He was not worried about announcing to the world everything he did. He was not worried about leaving his “public legacy.”

In fact, if I was St. Joseph, I can easily imagine the temptation to publish “the uniqueness” or even the “blessing” that was my life on social media:

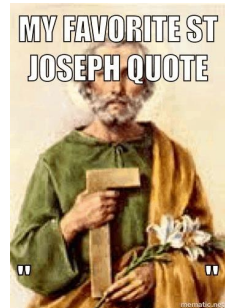
“*What a grace to be Stepdad of the Son of God!* #Blessed
“*I am married to the most beautiful woman in the world!*” #MotherOfGod
“*Check out my amazing carpentry!*” #BestCarpenterAlive

He doesn’t spend time *talking* about his mission. He spends his time *living* his mission.

St. Joseph can help us combat the “Slacktivism” so rampant in our digital world today where we are more likely to share a post about social change rather than spending our energy on enacting those changes. Joseph reminds us the *real* work often goes unnoticed.

Lesson #2: The Name “Joseph” is a Reminder that My Life is Not About Me

My own personal devotion to Joseph began during my time in the novitiate. It actually started with a deepening love for “Nuestra Señora de la Altigracia” – the protectress of the Dominican Republic. While this devotional image (to the right) seems to focus primarily on Mary and the Child Jesus, one might miss Joseph quietly in the background. It is precisely his humility, his stepping out of the foreground and into the background, that made me always notice Joseph first in this image.



He is living his name: “Joseph,” which **etymologically** comes from the Hebrew “to add” or “to increase.”

For Joseph, it was not *added* personal blessings or even *added* personal sanctity he received to show off to the world, but rather Joseph “increased” glory always for those around him first. In his case – always directing his energy toward Mary and Jesus. His entire life focused on loving the people right in front of him: his wife and his son. In doing something so ordinary with extraordinary love, he fulfilled God’s mission for his life, and helped Jesus fulfill his. This is precisely why he became a model for me of what the ideal Christian life is about: to be a true “person for others” is to give all glory to Christ and Mary.

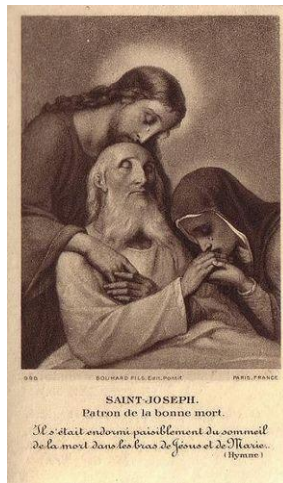


Is it really a surprise then, growing up with an example of radical service and humility like his father Joseph, that Jesus teaches his disciples that “whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the servant of all”? As the saying goes: “Like father, like son.” It seems to apply to Jesus at both an earthly and divine level.

Lesson #3: We Are All Called to Embrace Reality—A “Happy Death”

Aside from being patron saint of numerous causes, St. Joseph is especially known for being the patron of a “happy death.” While this idea is not explicitly Biblical, it stems back to a tradition that developed over time through Christian imaginary and religious art.

During **this pandemic** when so many relatives, friends, neighbours and people of our world are suffering the effects of illness, death and injustices in our health care systems, St. Joseph teaches us something critical about Christian *happiness*. It is not about avoiding suffering. Rather, it is about embracing whatever reality comes our way in the love and grace of Jesus and Mary. This doesn’t mean we remain complacent with our current state of affairs. Rather, it’s quite the opposite. Remembering that Jesus and Mary are *always* by one’s side, we have the Christian faith, hope and love necessary to transform our broken world—no matter how ill, old, poor or in pain one might be.



This is precisely the “Christian realism” Pope Francis writes about in *Patris Corde*: “Here, once again, we encounter that **Christian realism** which rejects nothing that exists. Reality, in its mysterious and irreducible complexity, is the bearer of existential meaning, with all its lights and shadows... Nor should we ever think that believing means finding facile and comforting solutions. The faith Christ taught us is what we see in Saint Joseph. He did not look for shortcuts, but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” St. Joseph helps us to embrace and transform *all* our reality. This time with him, Mary and Jesus right by our side.

Lesson #4: We Are All Called to Encounter God's Loving Justice—Personally AND Socially

During the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis wants to make clear that the work for a more just world is not separate from the interior work of the spiritual life: they are one!

In other words, the Year of Saint Joseph may appear to some as just another typical “Catholic Theme” used by the Church to print more tacky banners, host overly pious retreats and publish more articles only a certain demographic reads. But based on Joseph’s lessons above, I don’t think the saint would mind if we get to the heart of what this year is truly about: “A Year of Radical Conversion for All”, through his intercession and example that always point us to Jesus. Therefore, using Ignatian terminology, St. Joseph is the prototype for a “Contemplative in Action.” His emphasis on both a deep prayer life and a life of work are exactly what we need to heal a divided world that sees these two sides of our Church—the Spiritual/Liturgical Catholics vs. The Social Justice Catholics— as inherently split. As a good father, Joseph wants to reconcile his children and help them mature individually and collectively in “wisdom, age and favour before God and humanity” (Luke 2:52). This definitely will require us to **learn to deal with (many) disagreements**, learn from each other’s strengths, improve on our own weaknesses, and this is exactly why we need Joseph’s intercession and example. But to grow always means frequently experiencing “growing pains.”

This is one of the many reasons that I love the wording on the **Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary** which grants various **Plenary and Partial Indulgences** during the Year of Saint Joseph. (Yes, you heard right: the Church still believes in indulgences, but it may not be what you think). It interweaves “prayer and good works” into a **list of invitations** for deep prayer in connection with **particular social issues** affecting our world today.

The work of internal reconciliation with the Lord falls into the plan for God’s social justice, for in the same way that reparations are made for our unjust actions at a systemic and local level, we too must make reparation for those internal injustices we commit in our personal love of God, others and creation.

St. Joseph warns us though not to allow the indulgences to remain mere rituals for the overly scrupulous. May Joseph’s invitation to the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** and the other indulgenced actions lead us to follow Joseph’s lead, whom the Church sees as “the living pattern of that social justice that ought to reign throughout the world.” St. Joseph, guides our difficult steps ahead.

Lesson #5: St. Joseph is the Patron of the Society of Jesus. For Real.

Did you know that the first assignment by Pope Paul III to St. Ignatius and his companions was given on March 19, 1539, Feast of St. Joseph? You may have thought St. Ignatius was the Patron of the Society of Jesus, but he is only one of its founders. Ignatius himself wanted to focus on the centrality of the name of Jesus in the Order. That’s why he wanted it named the “Society of Jesus” and not the “Society of Ignatius.” He must have taken some cues from the humility of Joseph. And while this lesson might seem like pure Jesuit trivia, the significance of this patronage for us Jesuits and all who partner with the mission of the Society has massive implications.



St. Ignatius in all of the Exercises only makes *seven* explicit references to St. Joseph, and all of them in union with Mary. But maybe there is a two-fold invitation that both Ignatius and Joseph wish to make to us today:

1. We are called to remain the “*Least Society of Jesus*” or in Spanish “*La Mínima Compañía de Jesús*.” This is not a call to live mediocresly, but a call to live that Gospel excellence of radical humility, illustrated so clearly in lessons one and two by Joseph. *We are called to be “the most humble!”* (How’s that for a little Jesuit irony?)
2. We are called to spend some time in Scripture with Joseph, using that powerful method of prayer known as **Ignatian imaginative contemplation**. We are invited to take on St. Joseph as our coach, to learn from him by seeing how he acts, loves, serves, **prays**, observes silence, and any words of wisdom he may want to share with us today.

While there is not a single *written* word in the Gospel spoken by Joseph, maybe this was to remind us Jesuits and all of humanity, to speak a little less, love a little more and most importantly strive to *live* the Gospel message everyday.

St. Joseph’s life is the embodiment of that other famous Ignatian quote: “Love ought to be put more in deeds than in words.” St. Joseph is so Ignatian! (A little more Jesuit irony.)

St. Joseph, Patron of the Society of Jesus,
Pray *for* and *with* us!
Work *for* and *with* us!

Evangelium

This Sunday, Bec and Jessica will be presenting on Saint Joseph

Next Sunday 26 March, Fr Aloysius Rego, OCD will be speaking on The Spirituality on Saint Therese of Lisieux

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The parish has commenced a new cycle of RCIA. In addition, to the seven (enquirers), any parishioner is welcome to attend the RCIA presentations which involved a systematic exposition of the doctrine and practice of the Catholic faith. The RCIA meetings take place each Wednesday evening between 6:30 and 7:30pm in the Duffy Hall.

In addition to serving as an excellent revision of our own knowledge of the faith, parishioners will also lend valuable moral support to the RCIA enquirers. Feel free to invite any of your own relatives and friends who would like to participate in this program.

Day of the Unborn Child

Feast of the Annunciation Mass and Procession

Sunday 26th March at St Mary’s Cathedral

- 10:30am Mass (Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP as Principal Celebrant)
- 12 noon Street Procession
- 1:30pm Benediction

Sunday 10:30am Mass Readers’ Roster

Second Sunday: 19 March	Brendan and Theresa Byrne
Third Sunday: 26 March	Alex Leech and Fiorella Vayda
Fourth Sunday: 2 April	John and Susannah McCaughan

(If there is a fifth Sunday of the month, readers will be arranged ad hoc for that day.)

NB: if you are unable to read on your rostered Sunday, and you have been unable to find a replacement, please contact the parish office. Other parishioners are welcome to contact the office if they wish to read at either of the Sunday Masses.

Guide to Project Compassion and Lenten Companion 2023

Project Compassion began with Ash Wednesday. Distribution boxes and donation envelopes will be placed on the side entrance and the front of the church.

There is also available Lenten Companion 2023 prepared by the Go Make Disciples, Parish Renewal Team to guide us through lent with reflections for each week in Lent. The Lenten Companion 2023 titled Spirit and Truth, *The Power of Christ Revealed*

Many people find it easier to donate to Project Compassion via the Parish website. You may begin this donation process by clicking on the Yellow **SUPPORT US** button on the top right-hand corner of the Parish website and then by following the prompts.



Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney: Parish Safeguarding volunteer Online Induction Training, working With Children Check & Code of Conduct



The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney advises that any person performing any role in the life of the Parish (e.g., readers, servers, collectors, welcomers) is required to comply with Safeguarding Volunteer Online training as per the details below: Registration to complete the Online Safeguarding Induction Training via this

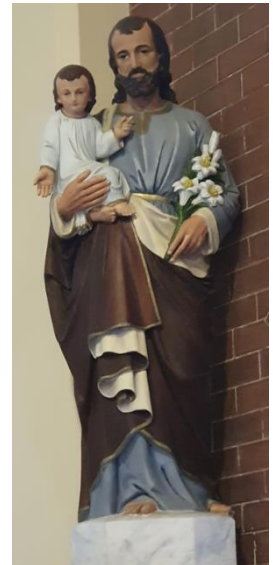
link <https://forms.gle/9ebT3voEAtfP7P8R9> or you can register to attend a Zoom Safeguarding Induction Training session by emailing safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org for further information and dates.

The month of March dedicated to Saint Joseph (Feast day 19 Mar)

Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen



Statue of Saint Joseph with the child Jesus in our church

The Litany of Humility

(by His Eminence Cardinal Merry del Val)

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
Hear me.
From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, O Jesus.
From the desire of being loved,
Deliver me, O Jesus.
From the desire of being extolled, *etc.*
From the desire of being honoured,
From the desire of being praised,
From the desire of being preferred to others,
From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,
From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being ridiculed,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being suspected,
That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be esteemed more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That, in the opinion of the world,
others may increase and I may
decrease, *etc.*
That others may be chosen and I set
aside,
That others may be praised and I go
unnoticed,
That others may be preferred to me
in everything,
That others may become holier than
I, provided that I may become as
holy as I should,

Stained glass window of the
Annunciation in our church



Prayer to Saint Joseph to protect the Church from the devil

Philip Kosloski - published on 03/01/23

The devil is intent on destroying the Church, setting many traps for her followers, as well as her leaders. This is one of the reasons why Pope Leo XIII composed a **prayer to St. Joseph for the protection of the Church.**

He composed the prayer at the end of *Quamquam pluries*, asking the faithful to call on Saint Joseph for protection against the devil.

The prayer recalls Saint Joseph's protection of the Child Jesus in Egypt and asks for his intercession, that the Church may be spared from the devil's vicious attacks.

Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen offspring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving Father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness. And even as of old thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now **defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity.** Shield us ever under thy patronage, that, following thine example and strengthened by thy help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain to everlasting bliss in Heaven. Amen.