

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint 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 Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* 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 Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

A beloved, tender, obedient father

Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," – because "we know that God's truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us" (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" (3).

Welcoming the will of God

At the same time, Joseph is "an accepting Father," because he "accepted Mary unconditionally" – an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, "in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident." But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, "setting aside his own ideas" and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph's spiritual path "is not one that explains, but accepts" – which does not mean that he is "resigned." Instead, he is "courageously and firmly proactive," because with "Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude," and full of hope, he is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: "Do not be afraid!" because "faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad," and makes us aware that "God can make flowers spring up from stony ground." Joseph "did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

A creatively courageous father, example of love

Patris corde highlights "the creative courage" of St. Joseph, which "emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties." "The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

You can read the rest of the Pope's Apostolic Letter by using the link below:

https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html?fbclid=IwAR0TkrFxT-CMjGJAm4IaJkGzs_JmeBAwU56t8LyKPPtbWyKNCu40_aYG_p4

PARISH ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Two mornings per week

The Star of the Sea Parish has an opportunity for a friendly and effective administration assistant to join their small team.

You would provide reception duties at the parish office as well as assisting with administrative functions such as booking parish facilities, preparing weekly bulletins and other clerical work. You would also be assisting with invoicing and bill payments.

Ideally you will have:

- Good customer service skills
- Good keyboard skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Competence in MS Word and Xero

Currently the position is two mornings per week, with potential to grow.

If you are interested, please forward your CV with a covering letter to The Parish Office by 21st December 2020

Christmas Timetable 2020

UPDATED FROM LAST WEEK



Reconciliation Services

Blenheim 16th December 6.30pm
Kaikoura 17th December 6.30pm
Picton 17th December 6.30pm

16th December

Masses

Blenheim- School Mass 10.30am in the Hall

24th Dec- Christmas Eve

Blenheim 5.30pm (Family Mass)
Seddon/ Ward 6pm
Kaikoura 7.30pm (Carols from 7pm)
Blenheim 9pm (Carols from 8.40pm)
Picton 9pm (Carols from 8.40pm)

25th Dec Christmas Day

Blenheim 9.30am
Kaikoura 9.30am
Picton 9.30am

26th Dec Boxing Day

Blenheim 5pm **W&C**

27th Dec Feast of the Holy Family

Seddon-8am Mass/ Fr Pat
Picton-9am Mass/ Fr Jacob
Kaikoura-9.30 Mass/ Fr Paul
Blenheim-10am Mass/Fr Pat
Havelock-11am Mass/ Fr Jacob
Ward 5pm

Fri Jan 1: New Year's Day

Picton-9am Mass
Kaikoura- 9.30am **W&C**
Blenheim-12.05pm Mass



Volunteers for Christmas at St Mary's

Sign up sheets

We also require Readers, Altar Servers, Collectors, Eucharist Ministers, PowerPoint operators. please add your name to the lists in the Church foyer.

And if you want to be involved in Mass at any of the other Mass Centres please approach their Stewardship Team

FOOD FOR FAITH FOR ADVENT – Father John O'Connor's popular Food for Faith page will have daily reflections for Advent. Go to his site and sign up to get the reflections daily by email during December: www.foodforfaith.org.nz

A quote from the ADW office of Ecology, Justice and Peace

We who are baptized, children of the Church, we are called to accept ever anew the presence of God among us and to help others to discover Him, or to rediscover what they have forgotten. It is a most beautiful mission, like that of John the Baptist: to direct the people to Christ – not to ourselves! – for He is the destination to which the human heart tends when it seeks joy and happiness. Pope Francis: [Angelus 14 December 2014](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/angelus-angelus-2014-12-14/angelus-2014-12-14.html)

A quote from the Year of Mission

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailing each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.'" – Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium #3)