



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

*“Supporting Catholic schools to provide excellent education where pupils flourish,
and Christ is made known to all.*”

Resources to Support Schools in celebrating the Year of St Joseph



Pope Francis established a “Year of St. Joseph” so that “every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God’s will.”

Booklet researched, developed and collated by Catherine Harwood and Maria Shepherd

St Joseph: The husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. He is often referred to as the silent saint as there is no record of any words he spoke. Despite this, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke leave a sharp outline of his character. We hope you enjoy exploring his many positive traits with your pupils and what we can learn from him.

Feast Days: 19th March and 1st May (St Joseph the worker)

Patron Saint of: the Universal Church, unborn children, fathers, workers, travellers, immigrants, and a happy death

A celebration of the Year of St Joseph

150 Years after St Joseph was recognized as the Patron Saint of the Universal Church, the Pope has declared the period between 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021 the Year of St Joseph. He states:

“Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility? How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer? How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all?”

In St Joseph, we have:

1. **A beloved father**- He was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus and devoted himself to them through his life and his work. Prayers are said to St Joseph every Wednesday and the month of March is dedicated to him.
2. **A tender and loving father**-Joseph saw Jesus grow daily “in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour” (*Lk 2:52*). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: “he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him” (cf. *Hos 11:3-4*). Even through Joseph’s fears, God’s will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.
3. **An obedient father**-As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams, which in the Bible and among all ancient peoples, were considered a way for him to make His will known.
4. **An accepting father**-Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion.

Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (cf. *1 Cor* 1:27)

5. **A creative and courageous father-** If the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose, we must now add another important element: creative courage. This emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties. In the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it. At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had...That child would go on to say: "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (*Mt* 25:40). Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is "the child" whom Joseph continues to protect. For this reason, Saint Joseph is invoked as protector of the unfortunate, the needy, exiles, the afflicted, the poor and the dying. Consequently, the Church cannot fail to show a special love for the least of our brothers and sisters, for Jesus showed a particular concern for them and personally identified with them. From Saint Joseph, we must learn that same care and responsibility. We must learn to love the child and his mother, to love the sacraments and charity, to love the Church and the poor. Each of these realities is always *the child and his mother*.
6. **A working Father-** An aspect of Saint Joseph that has been emphasized from the time of the first social Encyclical, [Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*](#), is his relation to work. Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.

In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.

7. **A father in the shadows-** Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person. When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (*Mt* 23:9)

The whole of the Apostolic Letter, Patris Corde' can be read:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

To mark this special year of St Joseph, Brentwood Diocesan Education Service invites all schools to send in examples of works or photographs of art work, be they prayers, poems, reflections on Scripture, art work, play scripts, photos of child- initiated displays dedicated to St Joseph. This work will then be incorporated into a diocesan book to celebrate the Year of St Joseph and shared with all the schools in the Diocese. Schools are invited to send in four examples of work, to arrive at Cathedral House no later than 25th June, 2021.

St Joseph in the Scriptures:

If you would like to reflect on some of the scriptures related to St. Joseph then you can use the scripture references below. Also included is where the story can be found in God Story 3.

As you will see from this and your own research, there is not an awful lot said about St. Joseph in the Bible. Although he is mentioned and he plays a crucial part in Jesus' life, we never actually hear him speak.

What do you think this tells you about St. Joseph's character or personality?

Matthew 1:1-17- Jesus Family tree (Also on p.69 of God's Story 3)

Matthew 13:55- Reference to Jesus being a carpenter's son. (Also Mark 6:3)

Matthew 1:18-25- Joseph, the just man, is told in a dream to take Mary as his wife

Matthew 1:19- Joseph considers divorcing Mary

Luke 2:1-7- Joseph goes with Mary to Bethlehem to register for the census and the birth of Jesus. (Also p74 of God's Story 3)

Luke 2:16- The Shepherds find Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus. (Also p75 of God's Story 3)

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23- Joseph's Dream and The Flight to Egypt (Also p.77 of God Story 3)

Luke 2:23-39- The Presentation (Also p.78 of God Story 3)

Luke 2:40-51 -Jesus lost in the Temple (Also p.79 of God Story 3)

- 1) Joseph: An upright man ([Matthew 1:18-19](#))
- 2) Joseph: A considerate husband ([Matthew 1:20-23](#))
- 3) Joseph: An obedient servant of God ([Matthew 1:24-25](#))
- 4) Joseph: A good citizen of his country ([Luke 2:1-5](#))
- 5) Joseph: A protector of his family ([Matthew 2:13-23](#))
- 6) Joseph: A concerned father ([Luke 2:41-50](#))

Activity – Pupils can respond to the scriptures using any medium or genre of writing, be it as a prayer, a biography of St Joseph, a diary entry, a poem, a play script, a recount or a description of the qualities of the ideal foster father but remind the class that the focus is on what we learn about Joseph, his feelings, thoughts etc. Consider using paints, charcoal, pastels, making a collage or mosaic, model making, making a story box. You can either send in to us in BDES a scanned photograph of a model or story box or a scanned version of any creative writing.

Some other resources that may be useful.

Prayers for St Joseph's intercession

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.

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 of 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 me. Amen.

St. Joseph Prayer- Written by Pope St. John XXIII

Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus
and chaste husband of Mary,
you passed your life in loving fulfilment of duty.
You supported the holy family of Nazareth
with the work of your hands.
Kindly protect those who trustingly come to you.
You know their aspirations,
their hardships, their hopes.
They look to you because they know
you will understand and protect them.
You too knew trial,
labour and weariness.
But amid the worries of material life,
your soul was full of deep peace
and sang out in true joy
through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you
and with Mary, his tender Mother.
Assure those you protect that they do not labour alone.
Teach them to find Jesus near them
and to watch over Him faithfully as you have done.
Amen.

God our Father, you willed that your Son, under Joseph's authority, should experience daily life and human work. By the prayers of Saint Joseph, help us to sanctify the present moment, to be concerned for our neighbour and be faithful to the tasks of every day. Hear us, through Christ our Lord.

Saint Joseph, husband of Mary: Pray for us.
Saint Joseph, patron of workers: Pray for us.
Saint Joseph, the craftsman: Pray for us.

Pope Francis' Prayer for the Year of Saint 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.

Litany to St Joseph:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fcbgZiOiTNocnJtujCw7hg387TIAO_PHCciLWbd0ayo/edit#slide=id.p

Memorare to St Joseph

Remember, O most chaste
spouse of the Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that
anyone who implored your help
and sought your intercession
were left unassisted.
Full of confidence in your
power I fly unto you and
beg your protection.
Despise not O Guardian of
the Redeemer my humble
supplication, but in your
bounty, hear and answer me.

Amen.



Poetry about St Joseph

This poem by Madeleine L'Engle is imagining Mary speaking about Joseph, her spouse.

*It was from Joseph first I learned
of love. Like me he was dismayed.
How easily he could have turned
me from his house; but, unafraid,
he put me not away from him
(O God-sent angel, pray for him).
Thus through his love was Love obeyed.*

*The Child's first cry came like a bell:
God's Word aloud, God's Word in deed.
The angel spoke: so it befell,
and Joseph with me in my need.
O Child whose father came from heaven,
to you another gift was given,
your earthly father chosen well.*

*With Joseph I was always warmed
and cherished. Even in the stable
I knew that I would not be harmed.
And, though above the angels swarmed,
man's love it was that made me able
to bear God's love, wild, formidable,
to bear God's will, through me performed.*

To St Joseph by Charles Leo O'Donnell

St Joseph, when the day was done
And all your work put by,
You saw the stars come one by one
Out in the violet sky.

You did not know the stars by name,
But there sat by your knee
One who had made the light and flame
And all things bright that be.

You heard with Him birds in the tree
Twitter "Good-night " o'erhead, —
The Maker of the world must see
His little ones to bed.

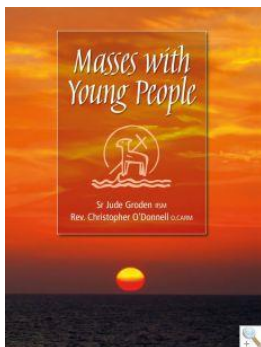
Then when the darkness settled round,
To Him your prayers were said;
No wonder that your sleep was ground
The angels loved to tread.



Nails by Leonard Feeney

Whenever the bright blue nails would drop
Down on the floor of his carpenter shop,
Saint Joseph, prince of carpenter men,
Would stoop to gather them up again;
And he feared for two little sandals sweet,
And very easy to pierce they were
As they pattered over the lumber there
And rode on two little sacred feet.
But alas, on a hill between earth and heaven
One day – two nails in a cross were driven,
And fastened it firm to the sacred feet
Where once rode two little sandals sweet;
And Christ and His mother looked off in death
Afar – to the valley of Nazareth,
Where the carpenter's shop was spread with dust
And the little blue nails, all packed in rust,
Slept in a box on the window-sill;
And Joseph lay sleeping under the hill.

Mass for the Feast of St Joseph



A Mass for St Joseph can be found
on p. 68 of the book.

Hymns about St Joseph

Joseph's Song by Michael Card

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=joseph%27s+song+michael+card&view=detail&mid=12B2B2D53529EC7C83C012B2B2D53529EC7C83C0&FORM=VIRE0&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3djoseph%2527s%2bsong%2bmichael%2bcard%26form%3dEDGEAR%26qs%3dAS%26cvid%3d49d4685140c545a282591d0e469d0647%26cc%3dGB%26setlang%3den-US%26plvar%3d0>

Bread and fishes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BGyE1stWNU>

As Joseph went a walking:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=As+Joseph+went+a+walking

A Hymn to St Joseph

St Joseph was a carpenter he worked hard and well,
With saw and plane and nails and wood he made strong things to sell.

You'd hear him singing
And his hammer ringing
For St Joseph was a happy man!

He took good care of Jesus Christ who was God's Son he knew.
They loved each other very much and helped each other too.
You'd hear him singing
And his hammer ringing
For St Joseph was a happy man!

And he worked hard to help his wife as every husband should,
And when her birthday came around He'd make a gift from wood.

You'd hear him singing
And his hammer ringing
For St Joseph was a happy man

They were a happy family just like our own should be.
If we love one another well We shall be like those three

You'd hear him singing
And his hammer ringing
For St Joseph was a happy man

*God gave to Joseph
a Father's love
a Father's watchful care
and
a Father's authority
(St John Damascene)*

St Joseph through Art

The Dream of St Joseph-Philippe de
Champaigne





The Holy Family with John the Baptist-Jacob Jordaens

The Holy Family- Reubens





Rest on the flight to Egypt- Piers Francisco Mola

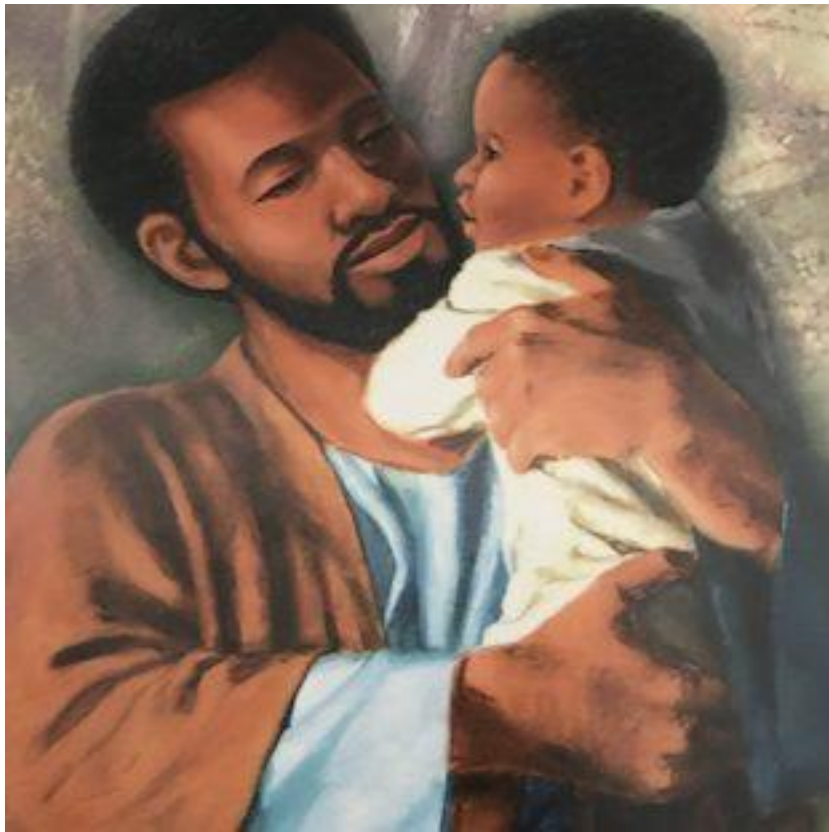
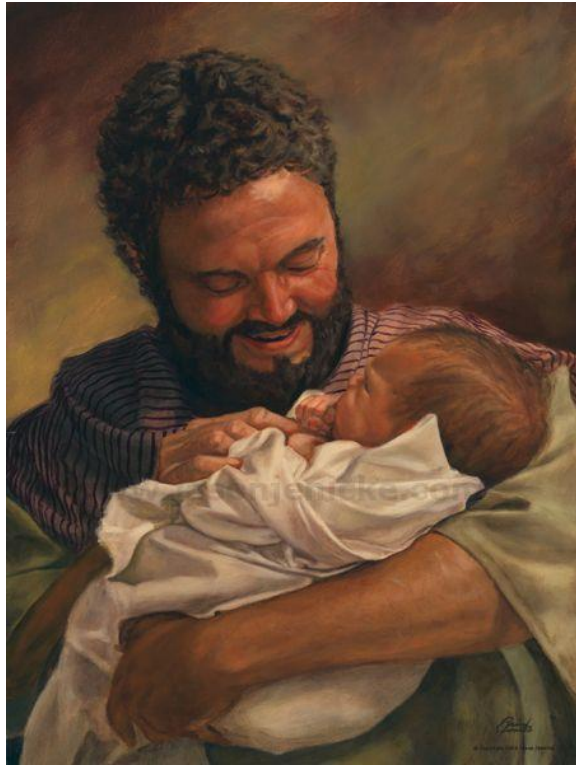
All of the above can be found on the National Gallery website

Other pictures

St Joseph the Worker







Sleeping St Joseph:

St Joseph pray for us

“Remember, Jesus slept sweetly under the protection of St. Joseph.” ~Pope Francis



This is a common image of Joseph in the South American culture. The Pope's own statue came with him to Rome after he was elected Pope. But why is St Joseph sleeping?

When sleeping, Joseph receives the messages of God who warned him of the danger posed by King Herod, and advises him to love and protect Mary and the Child. It is in this dream that Joseph takes on his putative role of Father of Jesus and of all people, an archetypal figure, protector, defender, comforter. Joseph is the careful and tender guardian of the family, the man, who welcomes and guards the mysteries of God, as he has consciously chosen to accept and protect Mary, the woman that God willed to be the **holy and immaculate mother** of his only Son. Joseph is the archetype of the Christian bishop, father and protector of the Church and all men and women who make it up.

This is why the Pope has the habit of putting cards or notes under the statue of the sleeping saint that contain problems, requests for grace, and prayers of the faithful. It's like inviting

Joseph to 'sleep on it', and perhaps put in a word to God to solve difficult situations and help the needy, thus renewing his role as the merciful and protective father to those he loves.

Prayer to the Sleeping St Joseph

Saint Joseph,
Whose protection is so great, so strong,
So prompt before the throne of God,
I place in you all my interest and desires.
Amen

Activity: Children can make their own clay model of sleeping St Joseph and write their own prayer requests to place under their statue.

Alternatively, you can use the resources in 'The Sleeping St Joseph' booklet.

The story of St Joseph and the Lily



St Joseph and the Lily: This story is based on the Gospel of James, written about the Year 170ad and is not part of the Scriptures.

Legend St Joseph's Lilies

Mary, the daughter of Anne and Joachim, was now old enough to get married. In those days, parents and priests chose the person a girl was going to marry. The high priest Zacharias was to decide on

Mary's husband. He knew that God had brought Mary into the world for a special reason, so he prayed asking God to help him make the right choice for Mary.

An angel came to him and said, "Call all the men that you can choose from to come to the temple. Tell each one to bring his walking stick. God will use the sticks to give you a sign of which man should be the husband of Mary."

So all the men arrived with their walking sticks, and left them there as Zacharias requested. Among them was a good person named Joseph who was a carpenter.

In the morning, all the walking sticks were stilled lined up, expect for one, from which beautiful lilies had blossomed during the night! The stick belonged to Joseph. Zacharias the high priest knew then that Joseph was the man God had chosen for Mary.

It is for this reason that Joseph is often depicted holding a lily flower.

Make a St Joseph's Flowering Staff

Supplies:

5 or more green pipe cleaners
5 yellow pipe cleaners (orange will work, too)
5 sheets of white paper
1 sheet of green paper
A walking stick from outside
(A wooden rod from a craft store will also work, but you may want to paint/stain it brown.)
Pencil
Scissors
Tape and/or Glue
Hot Glue (maybe)

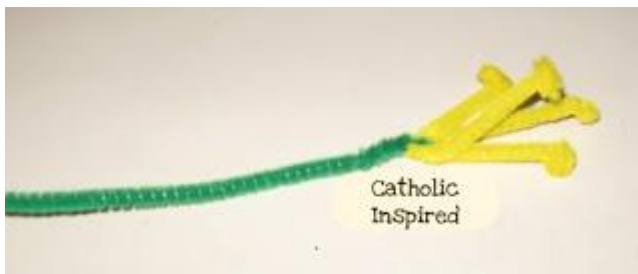
Instructions:

- The yellow pipe cleaner will be the centre of the lily flower. Cut the yellow pipe cleaner in half (should be about 3 to 4 inch pieces). Crisscross and twist the two halves together at the centre. Curl the ends down just a little to make a small ball on each of the 4 ends.





- The green pipe cleaner will be the stem. Take the green pipe cleaner and twist one end around the yellow pipe cleaners at the centre. The yellow pipe cleaners should be up and the green down.



- Trace two hand prints side-by-side on a sheet of white paper and cut them out. (I stacked the 5 white sheets together and cut them out at the same time.) The fingers are the flower's peddles.



- Wrap one hand cut-out around the yellow pipe cleaner with the green coming out the bottom. Tape it together. Then wrap the other hand cut-out around in the same way.



- Use a pencil to carefully curl down some of the peddles of the lily



- Repeat the above steps to make more lilies. Make about 5 lilies total.
- Wrap/twist the green pipe cleaner stems of your lilies around the top portion of the walking stick. You may need to hot glue them to the stick or use an extra green pipe cleaner to help secure the lilies to the staff. If you have any extra pipe cleaner ends hanging out, it looks best if you curl the ends using your finger or a pencil.

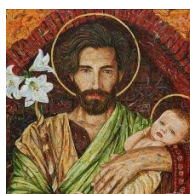


- Cut out and hot glue or tape some long narrow leaves to the green pipe cleaner stems.



Now you have St. Joseph's staff blooming with lilies!

Resource- **Also See Paper Plate Lilies**



An Old Italian Tradition: St Joseph's Table

This a tradition that has grown up around offering hospitality on the feast of St Joseph.

It began in Italy, Sicily to be precise, during the Middle Ages, after the people prayed to St. Joseph to intercede for them. They prayed for an end to a horrible famine that was plaguing them. After their prayers were answered, they made wonderful tables to honour St. Joseph to thank him for his help. Every year on his feast day they continued to honour him and create beautiful tables filled with a feast of artistically designed food. Then, when everyone has eaten, the rest of the food was given to the poor or if guests leave gifts of money, this is given to the poor.



Here are some traditional ideas for creating your own table:

1. Three Tiers (steps): The base of the table has three tiers to symbolize the Holy Trinity. The three tiers can be made by added steps of boxes to a table top, then drape a cloth over it and the table. There are countless ways to make three tiers - use whatever you have on hand.
2. Statue or Picture of St. Joseph at the top. Do not be afraid to add images or statues of Jesus or Mary, of other saints, too! Children can draw/ paint or make their own model of St Joseph and pictures/ models of the saints.
3. Candles - Candles are usually used on these tables. They can be electric candles or make some . fake candles
4. Shaped Breads and Pastries - Bake the bread and pasties in symbolic shapes like; a staff, lilies, saw, hammer, Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, doves, Bible, monstrance, crown of thorns, chalice and hosts, crosses, fish, lambs, palms, decorative wreaths, angels, wings, etc. Children enjoy making these; it is like play-doh! (See recipe below)
5. Flowers - Lilies are a symbol of St. Joseph, but any flowers will work. If you do not have real flowers, consider artificial flowers, or make some paper lilies
6. Prayer Intentions - Add a basket to the table so everyone can write prayer intentions on small slips of paper and add them to the basket.
7. Names or Images of Friends and Relatives who have died. St. Joseph is the patron of a happy death we ask that St. Joseph help these souls enter into heaven.
- 8 .Fava Beans: During the famine the peasants began to eat fava beans which were often fed to the cows. You can just display some beans on the altar and children can take one to help them to ask ST Joseph to pray for them during the year.

9. Meatless foods: The food is typically meatless because the Sicilian peasants rarely had meat. Plus, St. Joseph's feast day is always during Lent. This could be tinned foods that can then be redistributed to needy families or donated to the local food bank.

Remember, these are just ideas to consider adding to your St. Joseph's table. What do the children in your class think should be on a St Joseph's table? Get them to design one. They could even make one in their home and send in photographs as well as contribute to one in school.

If you do try this, why not make it more of a Lenten appeal for vulnerable families? - Like a Lenten harvest festival!



This idea is taken from:

© 2014 Catholic Inspired www.catholicinspired.site

A recipe: but why not get the older children to write their own recipes and then make their bread?

Flat Bread

You will need:

- 4 cups flour (whole wheat, white, or both-mixed)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 stick of butter –soften
- 1 ½ cup water

1. Mix dry ingredients together. Cut in butter and mix together. Add one cup of water, mix well. Then, add an additional ½ cup water (a little at a time). Too much water will make it too sticky. Stir until it starts to take form.

2. Use your hands to knead it and make shapes. You could roll this out on floured surface and use cookie cutters if you desire.

3. Bake on buttered baking sheet at 180° for 10 to 30 minutes -depending on the size and thickness of your shapes.

Some examples of Statues of St Joseph:

If the school does not presently have a statue of St Joseph, you may wish to buy one to commemorate the Year of St Joseph



A St Joseph Quiz

Follow this link for a quick quiz:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2YzOa6l8jzIH_u6EJGzJ1KvT4TSVuiO3JrN2FN6iGrYFI0g/viewform

Why not get your pupils to write their own St Joseph quiz?

"Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families." **St John Paul II**

Further resources to help you celebrate the Year of St Joseph can be found in the following

Appendices/accompanying resources:

1. Lily Plate (appendix 1 below)
2. Assembly for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (appendix 2 below)
3. Year of St Joseph Lessons/tasks (separate document)
4. Mysteries of St Joseph (For adults) (separate booklet)
5. Sleeping St Joseph (separate booklet)
6. Litany of St Joseph (separate document)
7. St Joseph 5 facts assembly by Mission Together-slides and notes (2 separate documents)

We hope you enjoy celebrating the Year of St Joseph in your school and we look forward to receiving some great examples of the creative work your pupils produce.

Short Novena to St Joseph the Worker

O God, the Creator of all things, You have laid the law of labour upon the human race. Grant, we beseech You, that by the example and protection of St. Joseph we may perform the work You command and attain to the reward that You promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Appendix 1

Paper Plate Lilies

Supplies:

- paper plate (one plate makes 2 flowers)
- yellow paper
- green paper
- yellow pencil or crayon
- clear tape
- stapler



First cut the paper plate in half.



Next cut-out 6 or 7 petals, as shown in the picture.

Try not to make the petals deeper than the flat part of the paper plate.

Flip the plate so the petals are bending away from you.

Colour the centre with a yellow crayon or pencil.

Cut a 1" x 1 1/2" inch strip of yellow paper. Make lots of thin slits in the paper, but make sure not to cut all the way through.

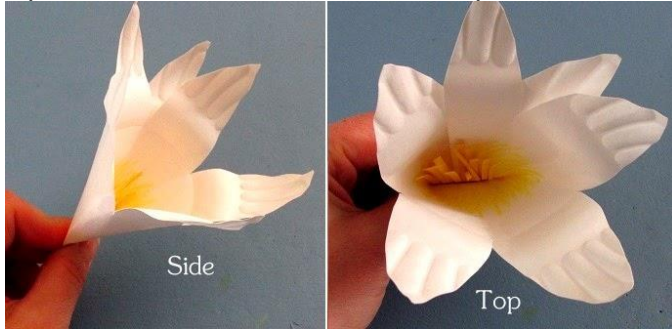
Tape the yellow fringed paper to the centre bottom of the flower.



Fold the paper flower into thirds (some petals will overlap). Only press the folds on the bottom half of the flower. Tape it together.

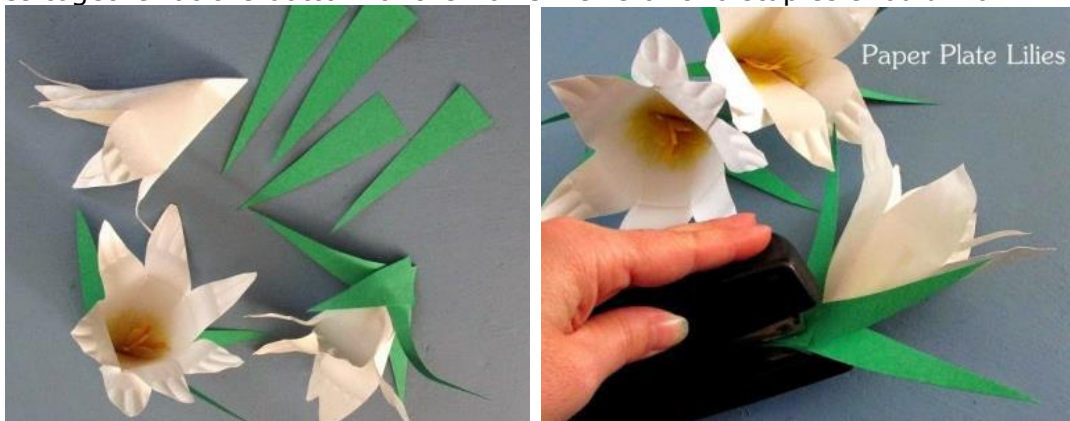


Open the flower and curl out the petals out, if needed.



Cut out 4 long triangle shapes from green paper.

Put 2 on each side of the flower bottom, pointing out. Staple the flower and the leaves together at the bottom of the flower. One or two staples should work.



Now they are ready to decorate your home or school. Use them on your Easter table, around statues of saints, or to decorate during May for Our Lady!

Appendix 2-Assembly

ST JOSEPH the WORKER –Feast Day 19th March

Entrance music (tape or CD) Choose a suitable piece of music

Introduction

This main feast of St Joseph, husband of Mary and adoptive father of Jesus, occurs on 19th March. Pope Pius XII created today's feast in 1955 to remind the Church of the importance of work and of the dignity that all should have, no matter what their employment.

Focus or symbol

Picture or image of St Joseph

Name of some local firms

Sign of the Cross

Lord Jesus show us the way to the Father as we begin, , “In the of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Hymn or song

CFE

O&N

627 St Joseph, God has chosen you

- St Joseph was an honest man 288



Reading Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for others.

Comment on reading

Since God wants us to work according to our possibilities, our attitude to work, to people and to the environment should be that of Christ. We must never look down on people because of what they do, or because they have no work. The Christian is one who respects people whatever their race, class, religion or position. In society we need so many people working so that we can live: we need people to grow food, drive buses, make things, work at home – thousands of jobs make life easy for all of us. Jesus regards work done for others as done for himself. [see Matthew 25]

Response to reading

Teachers and other staff members are presented with a flower to show that we are grateful for what they do.

Prayers

Asking St Joseph to pray with us we come before God with our needs.

We are concerned for the Church that it may be protected and holy.

Response: Bless our work.

For skilled and unskilled workers.

R./ Bless our work.

For those who give safe and healthy employment.

R./ Bless our work.

For those who are retired, redundant or unemployed.

R./ Bless our work.

For ourselves as we work and play.

R./ Bless our work.

(other prayers)

R./ Bless our work.

Our Father...

Thought-Word-Phrase for the day

Respect for all we meet

Blessing

Bless us all and all at work this day. Strengthen us with your love and peace.
Help us to support and encourage one another. Amen.

Concluding song or music

CFE

O&N

37 St Joseph was a carpenter -

Taken from 'Assemblies-Volume 2 Feasts Mary and the Saints' by Sr Jude Groden and Christopher O'Donnell