

Listening to those gone before us

... Brother Etienne,
Superieur General,
Circular n° 206,
Devotion to Saint
Joseph, p. 520.



Let us place ourselves at the school of Saint Joseph... Like him let us be familiar with Jesus and Mary... If following his example we live, we pray, work, we suffer, we will make rapid progress in virtue.

(Time of silence)

- **Magnificat** : Ant. : Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.
- **Intercession** : Shared prayer
Response : Saint Joseph, the beloved father, intercede for us.
- **Our Father...**

Prayer to Saint Joseph for the vocations



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his Son ;
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 generous vocations
of Brothers and of Lay Mennaisians
so that the children and youth may continue to
know and love better Jesus Christ.

AMEN !



PRESENCE AND HOPE

Joseph, a beloved father

Vespers - 6 January 2021

For the vocations of Brothers and of Lay Mennaisians
in Saint Francis Xavier District

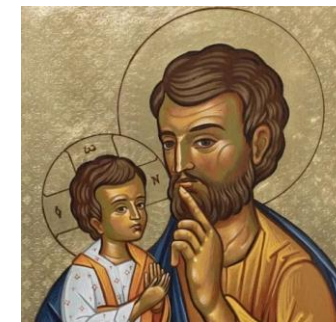
Hymn to Saint Joseph :

LOOK TO US ST JOSEPH
(or any other convenient hymn)

Melody : *Dutch Melody 76.76D*

Music : *Holland 1539* ; Text : *Michael Gannon*
Cf. Christian Prayer for the feast on 19th March.

1- Look to us Saint Joseph
Protector of our Lord,
Who followed you through deserts,
And gave you blessed reward ;
Our foes are yet about us,
Be strength now at our side,
Be light against the darkness,
St. Joseph be our guide.



2- We venerate your justice,
The gospels praise your name,
You are the saint all humble,
Who gained eternal fame,
In your devoted family
Our souls in trust confide,
Direct our way to heaven.
St. Joseph be our guide.

Psalm 112

Ant. : Joseph, husband of Mary, being a just man, did not want to denounce her publically, but decided to divorce her secretly.

- 1 Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
- 2 His sons will be powerful on earth ;
the children of the upright are blessed.

- 3 Riches and wealth are in his house :
his justice stands firm for ever.
- 4 He is light in the darkness for the upright,
he is generous, merciful and just.

- 5 The good man takes pity and lends ;
he conducts his affairs with honour.
- 6 The just man will never waver ;
he will be remembered for ever.

- 7 He has no fear of evil news ;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
- 8 With a steadfast heart he will not fear ;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

- 9 Open-handed, he gives to the poor ;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

- 10 The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away ;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Word of God : Mt 1 : 18-21

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'



(Time of silence)

Pope Francis : Patris Corde



The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, “at the service of the entire plan of salvation”. Saint Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood “by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home”. (n° 1)

(Time of silence)