

**TO GAIN A PLENARY INDULGENCE IT IS NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE WORK TO WHICH THE INDULGENCE IS ATTACHED AND TO FULFIL THE FOLLOWING THREE CONDITIONS:**

- 1). Sacramental Confession,
- 2). Holy Communion,
- 3). Prayer for the intention of the Holy Father.
- 4). It is further required that all attachment to sin, even venial sin, be absent. If this disposition is in any way less than perfect or if the prescribed three conditions are not fulfilled, the indulgence will be partial only.

The condition of praying for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff is fully satisfied by reciting

**one Our Father and one Hail Mary:**

nevertheless, each one is free to recite any other prayer according to his/her piety and devotion.

**A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who:**

1) In the performance of their duties and in bearing the trials of life, raise their mind with humble confidence to God, adding even if only mentally – some pious invocation.

2). In a spirit of faith and mercy give of themselves or of their goods to serve their brothers/sisters in need.

3). In a spirit of penance voluntarily deprive themselves of what is licit and pleasing to them.

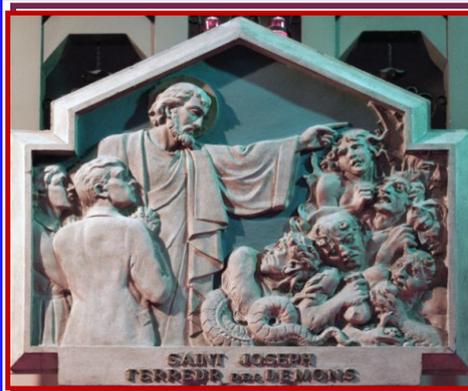
***St Joseph, Terror of Demons:  
Pray for us!!***

*With so much anger, hatred, confusion, cynicism, scepticism, and vitriol in the world and media at present ... “The way to overcome the Devil when he excites feelings of hatred for those who injure us is to pray immediately for their conversion.” St John Vianney.*

*And furthermore, see Our Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary as those Who can and will help us so much in these extraordinary days ... “The Devil is not satisfied with a soul turning against JESUS, unless it also turns against HIS MOTHER because he fears she will again, by her intercession, bring back her Son.”*

*St Bonaventure.*

*Please, pray the Rosary everyday for Peace in the world: our nations, our Political Leaders, Governments, Education, Health Services, Scientists, for an end to this COVID-19 Crisis, Traditional and Social Media, local businesses, neighbourhoods, Families, and our own souls too ...*



**ST MARY OF THE CRAYS NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent 20th December 2020**  
**In the Year of St Joseph:**

**“ WITH A FATHER’S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as “The Son of Joseph”.”**  
*(opening of the Apostolic Letter: Patris Corde of Pope Francis 8th Dec. 2020)*



***Wishing you, and all your families, a very happy, holy and blessed Christmas, New Year of 2021, and Epiphany Together with the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, Egypt, and Nazareth in our own homes here in Crayford and Barnehurst!***

***Brothers and Sisters in this Parish Family of St Mary of the Crays, in Crayford ... we are immensely grateful to all our Stewards for their sterling work: for so generously giving their time and energy in order to be able to keep the Church open for the Public Worship of Almighty God - since July this year!!***

**THE PRIEST'S PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH BEFORE HOLY MASS:**

O happy man, Saint Joseph, to you it was given to see and hear the God whom many kings longed to see but did not see, and longed to hear but did not hear. Not only that, but you were privileged even to bear God in your hands, to kiss Him, to dress Him and to watch over Him.

***V/.: Pray for us, Saint Joseph.***

***R/.: That we might be worthy of the promises of Christ.***

Let us pray: O God, Who has given us a royal priesthood: You found Blessed Joseph worthy to hold Your only Son, born of the Virgin Mary, reverently in his hands and to carry Him. Enable us, too, to serve at Your Holy Altar with pure hearts and innocent lives, so that today we may receive worthily the Most Holy Body and Blood of Your Son, and may be found worthy of an everlasting reward in the world to come. Through the same Christ our Lord.

## **THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH: WHAT CATHOLICS NEED TO KNOW**

From [CNA Daily News News Briefs](#) CNA Staff, Dec 10, 2020

- On Tuesday, Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph, in honour of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church.

Pope Francis said he was establishing the year 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."**

**Here's what you need to know about the Year of St. Joseph:**

**Why does the Church have years dedicated to specific topics?**

The Church observes the passage of time through the liturgical calendar – which includes feasts such as Easter and Christmas, and seasons such as Lent and Advent. In addition, however, popes can set aside time for the Church to reflect more deeply on a specific aspect of Catholic teaching or belief. Past years designated by recent popes include a Year of Faith, Year of the Eucharist, and Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**Why did the Pope declare a year of St. Joseph?**

In making his declaration, Pope Francis noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the saint's pro-

clamation as **patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1870.**

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

**"Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,"** the pope wrote.

He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, **"Our world today needs fathers."**

**When does the Year of St. Joseph begin and end?**

The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021.

**What special graces are available during this year?**

As Catholics pray and reflect on the life of St. Joseph throughout the coming year, they also have opportunities to gain a plenary indulgence, or remission of all temporal punishment due to sin. An indulgence can be applied to oneself or to a soul in Purgatory.

*From: Catholic World Report  
10th December 2020*

**Church grants plenary indulgence for year of St. Joseph:** (*excerpts from Vatican News staff writer*):

Pope Francis on Tuesday announced a special year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from 8 December 2020 until 8 December 2021, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and **"to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus."**

- **THE PLENARY INDULGENCE IS GRANTED** to those who will **meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer**, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. "St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us", the decree reads, **"to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."**

- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a **spiritual or corporal work of mercy**. St. Joseph **"encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,"** the decree notes.

- **The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families** and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that **"all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family."**

- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph **"with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it**

**inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties."**

- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will **recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition)**, or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, **for the persecuted Church** *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, **"the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment."**

### **A UNIVERSAL SAINT**

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, for example, **"To you, O blessed Joseph"** especially on **"19 March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph's Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition."**

The decree recalls the universality of St. Joseph's patronage of the Church, noting that St. Teresa of Ávila recognized him as **"a protector for all the circumstances of life"**. Pope St. John Paul II also said that St. Joseph has "a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium."

### **FOR THE SICK**

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

### **THE ROLE OF PRIESTS**

The Apostolic Penitentiary encourages priests to pastorally facilitate the celebration of the **Sacrament of Penance and the administration of Holy Communion to the sick** with a willing and generous spirit.