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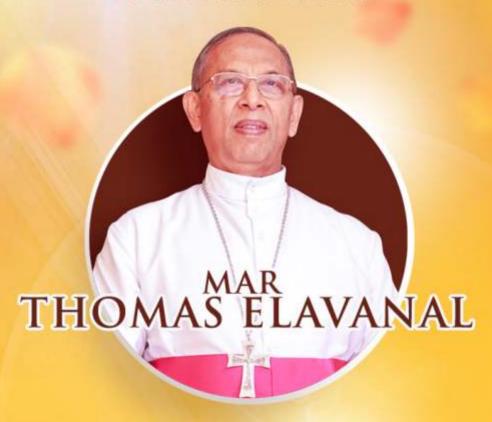
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OF THE EPARCHY OF KALYAN

28TH MARCH



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ട്രോമ്പ്യകാലം: ഒരു മടക്കയാത്ര

ഇത് ഒരു തപസ്സുകാലയാത്രയാണ്. ദൈവത്തിങ്കലേക്കുള്ള ഒരു മടക്കയാത്ര.

ധൂർത്തപുത്രന്റെ ഉപമയിലൂടെ, യഥാർത്ഥദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ മുഖം വരച്ചു കാണിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ലോക ജീവിതത്തിൽ മനുഷ്യമനസ്സ് പലവിധചിന്തകളാൽ കലുഷിതവും, ദുർമോഹങ്ങളാൽ പാപകരവുമായിതീരുന്നു. ഈ യാത്രയിൽ പലപ്പോഴും നാം വീണുപോകാറുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ദൈവസ്നേഹമെന്ന കരസ്പർശത്താൽ അവിടുന്ന് വീണ്ടും വീണ്ടും നമ്മെ കൈപിടിച്ചുയർത്തുന്നു. ഈ നോമ്പുകാലം ആ സ്നേഹപിതാവിന്റെ ഹൃദയത്തിലേക്കുള്ള യാത്രയാകട്ടെ.

പരി പിതാവ് ഈ വർഷം വി. യൗസേപ്പ് പിതാവിന്റെ വർഷമായി ആചരിക്കുവാൻ ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്തിരിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. വി. യൗസേപ്പ് പിതാവിന്റെ ജീവിതം നമ്മുക്ക് മാതൃകയാകട്ടെ. പിതാവിന്റെ വാത്സല്യത്തോടെ, സ്വയാർപ്പണം ചെയ്ത യൗസേപ്പിനെ നമ്മൾ കണ്ടുമുട്ടുന്നു. 'PATRIS CORDE' ('പിതാവിന്റെ ഹൃദയത്തോടെ'), എന്ന ലേഖനത്തിലൂടെ സഭയുടെ സംരക്ഷകനായ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിനെ കാണുന്നു.

യൗസേപ്പ് തികഞ്ഞ ഹൃദയനൈർമ്മല്യത്തോടെ, ദൈവീക പദ്ധതി ഏറ്റെടുക്കുകയും, അതിൽ നിലനിൽക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

ഈ ലക്കത്തിലൂടെ വി. യൗസേപ്പ് പിതാവിനെ കൂടുതൽ അടുത്തറിയാനും, കല്യാൺ രൂപതയിലെ യൗസേപ്പ് പിതാവിന്റെ വർഷാചരണത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ നോമ്പുകാലം നമ്മുക്ക് ഹൃദയനൈർമ്മല്യത്തിലേക്കും പിതാവിന്റെ സ്നേഹത്തിലേക്കുമുള്ള യാത്രയാകട്ടെ.

വി. യൗസേപ്പ് പിതാവിന്റെ മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥം തേടാം.

രക്ഷകന്റെ കാവൽക്കാരനേ, സ്വസ്തീ!

കന്യകാമറിയത്തിന്റെ അനുഗൃഹിതനായ ഭർത്താവേ, സ്വസ്തീ !!

അങ്ങയെ ആണല്ലോ തന്റെ ഏകജാതനു സംരക്ഷകനായി ദൈവം തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തതും ഭരമേൽപ്പിച്ചതും അങ്ങിലാണല്ലോ മറിയം വിശ്വാസമർപ്പിച്ചത്.

അങ്ങയോടൊപ്പമാണല്ലോ ക്രിസ്തു മനുഷ്യനായി വളർന്നത്.

അനുഗൃഹിതനായ യൗസേപ്പിതാവേ, ഞങ്ങൾക്കും അങ്ങു പിതാവാകേണമേ! ജീവിതപാതയിൽ ഞങ്ങളെ നയിക്കണമേ!

അനുഗ്രഹവും കരുണയും ധൈര്യവും ഞങ്ങൾക്കായി നേടിത്തരണമേ.

എല്ലാം തിന്മയിൽ നിന്നും ഞങ്ങളെ കാത്തുപാലിക്കണമേ! ആമ്മേൻ.

വി. യൗസേഷിലേക്ക് ഒരു തീർത്ഥാടനം



ഡോ. ടോം ഓലിക്കരോട്ട് തലശ്ശേരി രൂപത

വി. യൗസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ ജീവചരിത്രം



യാക്കോബ് വിവാഹം കഴിക്കുകയും സന്താനം ഇല്ലാതെ മരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ലെവിറേറ്റ് നിയമപ്രകാരം സഹോദരനായ ഹേലി യാക്കോബിന്റെ ഭാര്യയെ വിവാഹം ചെയ്ത് സഹോദരന് വേണ്ടി സന്താനങ്ങളെ ജനിപ്പിച്ചു. ആ വിവാഹത്തിൽ ജോസഫ്, അൽപയൂസ്, ക്ലോപ്പാസ് എന്നീ മക്കൾ ജനിച്ചു. ഇതിനെ അൽപയൂസിന്റെയും ക്ലോപ്പാസിന്റെയും മക്കളാണ് യേശുവിന്റെ സഹോദരൻമാർ എന്ന് സുവിശേഷങ്ങളിൽ വിളിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന യാക്കോബ്, യോസെ, യൂദാ, ശിമയോൻ എന്നിവർ. മത്തായി സുവിശേഷകൻ തന്റെ വംശാവലി എഴുതിയപ്പോൾ, യഹൂദക്രിസ്ത്യാനികൾ വായനക്കാരായതിനാൽ യഹുദ ലേവിറേറ്റ് നിയമപ്രകാരമുള്ള നൈയാമിക പിതാവായ യാക്കോബിന്റെ പേര് ജോസഫിന്റെ പിതൃസ്ഥാനത്ത് നൽകുകയും, ലൂക്കാ ഈ യഹുദപാരമ്പര്യം അറിയാത്ത വിജാതീയക്രിസ്ത്യാനികൾക്ക് എഴുതിയതിനാൽ തന്റെ വംശാവലിയിൽ ജൈവശാസ്ത്രപരമായി പിതാവായ ഹേലിയയുടെ പേര് പിതൃസ്ഥാനത്ത് നൽകുകയുമാണ് ചെയ്തത്. ജോസഫിന്റെ അമ്മയുടെ പേര് ചില അപ്രമാണികഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളിൽ റാഹേൽ എന്നായിരുന്നു എന്ന് കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. തികച്ചും യാദൃച്ഛികമായിരിക്കാം. പൂർവ്വ യൗസേപ്പിന്റെ അമ്മയുടെ പേരും റാഹേൽ എന്നായിരുന്നല്ലോ!

എ. ഡി. രണ്ട്, മുന്ന് നൂറ്റാണ്ടുകളിലേതെന്ന് വിശ്വസിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന പ്രോട്ടോവഞ്ചേലിയും ഓഫ് ജയിംസ്, ജോസഫ് ദി കാർപെന്റർ, ദി പനാരിയോൺ തുടങ്ങിയ പുരാതന ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളിൽ ജോസഫിന്റെയും മേരിയുടെയും വിവാഹത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് പരാമർശിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽപ്രകാരം, ദാവീദിന്റെ വംശത്തിലെ ജോവാക്കിമിനും അന്നയ്ക്കും നീണ്ടകാലത്തെ അനപദ്യ ദു:ഖത്തിനൊടുവിൽ വാർദ്ധകൃത്തിൽ ജനിച്ച മകളായിരുന്നു മറിയം. പ്രാർത്ഥനയ്ക്കുത്തരമായി ലഭിച്ച വരദാനമായതിനാൽ മറിയത്തെ അവർ ദേവാലയത്തിൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചു. $3\frac{1}{2}$ വയസ്സുമുതൽ വിവാഹപ്രായം വരെ മറിയം ദേവാലയത്തിൽ ജീവിച്ചു എന്നാണ് ഈ ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ വിവരിക്കുന്നത്. മറിയത്തിന് 12 വയസ്സുള്ളപ്പോൾ മാതാപിതാക്കൾ മരിക്കുകയും പിന്നീട് അവരുടെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം പ്രധാന പുരോഹിതന്റെ ചുമതലയാവുകയും ചെയ്തു. മറിയത്തിന് 14 വയസ്സ് പ്രായമുള്ളപ്പോഴാണ് വിവാഹം കഴിച്ചയക്കാനുള്ള ആലോചനകൾ വരുന്നത്. മറിയം യൂദാ ഗ്രോതത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടവളായതിനാൽ അതേ ഗോത്രത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള പുരുഷൻമാർ ദേവാലയത്തിലെത്തിച്ചേരാനുള്ള അറിയിപ്പ് നൽകി. ജറുസലേമിനടുത്തുള്ള ബെത്ലെഹംകാരനും, ബ്രഹ്മചര്യവ്രതം കാത്ത് സുക്ഷിക്കുമെന്ന

നാസിർവൃതക്കാരനായ ജോസഫും പുരോഹിതരുടെ ശാസന ധിക്കരിക്കാനാവാത്തതിനാൽ ദേവാലയത്തിലെത്തി. പ്രധാന പുരോഹിതൻ വന്നെത്തിയ ഓരോ ചെറുപ്പക്കാരുടെയും കൈവശവും ഓരോ ഉണങ്ങിയ ലില്ലിത്തണ്ടുകൾ നൽകുകയും പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെ സമയത്ത് സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ സാക്ഷ്യമെന്നോണം ജോസഫിന്റെ വടി തളിർത്ത് അതിൽ ലില്ലിപുഷ്പങ്ങൾ വിരിയുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഈ പാരമ്പര്യം അനുസ്മരിച്ചാണ് ചിത്രങ്ങളിൽ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ കരങ്ങളിൽ ലില്ലിപുഷ്പം കാണപ്പെടുന്നത്. മറിയത്തിന്റെയും ജോസഫിന്റെയും വിവാഹനിശ്ചയം



അറിയാത്ത വഴികളിലേക്കും സാഹചര്യ ങ്ങളിലേക്കും അന്ധകാരത്തിലേക്കും ഇറങ്ങുമ്പോൾ, ആധുനികജീവിതത്തിലും നിഴലുകളിലും അജ്ഞതകളിലും ദൈവ ഹിതത്തിന്റെ വെളിച്ചം കാണാൻ നമ്മെ പഠിഷിക്കുന്നവനാണ് യൗസേഷ്.

പരിശുദ്ധമായ കന്യകയെ നിനക്ക് ഭരമേല്പിക്കുന്നു. നീ കുടുതൽ കുടുതൽ അവൾക്ക് യോജിച്ചവനാകുക" എന്ന പ്രധാന പുരോഹിതന്റെ അനുഗ്രഹത്തിന് "എന്റെ ശക്തിയും പുരുഷൻ എന്ന നിലയിലുള്ള അധികാരവും മേരിയുടെ സേവനത്തിനായി നൽകുന്നു". എന്നായിരുന്നു ജോസഫിന്റെ മറുപടി (മരിയം വാൾത്തോർത്തയുടെ ദൈവമനുഷ്യന്റെ സ്നേഹഗീതയിൽ ഇതിന് സമാനമായ വിവരണം കണ്ടെത്താനാകും). വിവാഹനിശ്ചയം കഴിഞ്ഞശേഷം മറിയം മാതാപിതാക്കൾ മരിച്ച് കഴിഞ്ഞതിനാൽ നസ്രത്തിലെ ഭവനത്തിലേക്ക് പോയി. അവിടെ താമസിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തത്. അവിടെ വച്ചാണ് അവൾ മംഗളവാർത്ത ശ്രവിക്കുന്നത്. ദി ഡേ ക്രൈസ്റ്റ് ഡെഡ് എന്ന ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിൽ പറയുന്നത്. വിവാഹ നിശ്ചയ

സമയത്ത് ജോസഫിന് 26 വയസ്സായിരുന്നു പ്രായം എന്നും അയാൾ ആശാരിപ്പണിക്കാരനായിരുന്നു എന്നുമാണ്. ആശാരിപ്പണിക്കാരനായതിനാൽ നസ്രത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 6 കീ. മീ. മാത്രം അകലെയായിരുന്ന സെഫോറിസ് എന്ന നഗരത്തിൽ കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ച് തൊഴിൽ തേടിയാണ് ജോസഫ് ബെത്ലഹേമിൽ നിന്നും നസ്രത്തിലെത്തിയത് എന്നു അനുമാനിക്കാം. വളരെ പ്രബലമായിരുന്ന പാരമ്പര്യം പറയുന്നത് മറിയത്തിന്റെ മാതാപിതാക്കൾ ജീവിച്ചിരുന്നത് സെഫോറിസിലായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ്. വിശുദ്ധ അന്നയുടെ നാമത്തിൽ സെഫോറിസിൽ മറിയത്തിന്റെ ഭവനമിരുന്നിടത്ത് കുരിശുയുദ്ധ പോരാളികൾ ഒരു ദേവാലയം നിർമ്മിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു.

ജോസഫിന്റെ അന്ത്യനിമിഷങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് അപ്രമാണിക് ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങളും പാരമ്പര്യങ്ങളും പറയുന്നത്; യേശുവിന് ഏകദേശം മുപ്പത് വയസ്സ് പ്രായമുള്ളപ്പോഴാണ് ജോസഫ് മരിക്കുന്നത് എന്നാണ്. ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിലെ വി. ബിഡിന്റെ രചനയിൽ ഇറുസലേമിന് സമീപം പുനരുത്ഥാന പ്രതീക്ഷയുടെ മണ്ണ് എന്നറിയപ്പെടുന്ന ജോസഫാത്ത് താഴ്വരയിലാണ് മാർ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിനെ സംസ്കരിച്ചത് എന്ന് രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. എ. ഡി. 14–ാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിമുതലാണ് മാർച്ച് 19 ജോസഫിന്റെ മരണത്തിരുനാളായി ആചരിച്ച് നടത്തുന്നത്. വി. ഫ്രാൻസിസ് സാലസും, അൽഫോൻസ ലിഗോരിയും ജോസഫിനെ നൽമ്മരണ മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥനായി പ്രഘോഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ലോകത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും സൗഭാഗ്യപൂർണ്ണമായ മരണമെന്നാണ് യൗസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ മരണത്തെ സഭാപാരമ്പര്യങ്ങൾ വിശേഷിപ്പിച്ചത്. ദൈവപുത്രന്റെയും പരിശുദ്ധ മറിയത്തിന്റെയും സാമീപ്യത്തിൽ മരിക്കുന്നതിലും വലിയ ഭാഗ്യമരണമേതാണ്? കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയിലെ പ്രമുഖ മിഷണറി മരിയ വാൾ തോർത്ത ദൈവമനുഷ്യന്റെ സ്നേഹഗീതിയിൽ ജോസഫിന്റെ അന്ത്യനിമിഷങ്ങളുടെ ദർശനം വിശദമായി നൽകുന്നുണ്ട്.

വി. യൗസേപ്പ് സഭാപാരമ്പര്യത്തിലും പ്രബോധനങ്ങളിലും

തിരുകുടുംബത്തിന്റെയും തിരുസ്സഭയുടെയും പാലകനായി വിശുദ്ധ യൗസേപ്പിനെ അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നതും ആദരിക്കുന്നതും സഭാപാരമ്പര്യത്തോട് ചേർന്നു നില്കുന്ന യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാണ്. വി. ജറോമിന്റെ (എ. ഡി. 347–420) രചനകളിലാണ് സഭാപാരമ്പര്യത്തിൽ ആദ്യമായി യൗസേപ്പിതാവിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ദൈവശാസ്ത്രദർശനം കാണുന്നത്. നാലാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ, പരിശുദ്ധ കന്യാകാമറിയത്തിന്റെ കന്യാത്വത്തെ നിരസിക്കുന്ന പ്രബോധനങ്ങളെ Helvidius എന്ന ലേഖനത്തിൽ പരി. മറിയം മാത്രമല്ല, വി. യൗസേപ്പും ബ്രഹ്മചാരിയായിരുന്നു എന്ന ആശയത്തെ അദ്ദേഹം സമർത്ഥിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എട്ടാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടുമുതൽ മാർ യൗസേപ്പ് അറിയപ്പെടുന്നത് 'കർത്താവിന്റെ രക്ഷാകർത്താവ്'. 'ഈശോയുടെ വളർത്തപിതാവ്' എന്നിങ്ങനെയാണ്. മധ്യശതകങ്ങളിൽ, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് തോമസ് അക്വിനാസിന്റെ സുമ്മാ തിയോളജിയ എന്ന രചനയിൽ യൗസേപ്പിനെ തിരുകുടുംബത്തിന്റെ സംരക്ഷകൻ, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് മറിയത്തിന്റെയും ഉണ്ണീശോയുടെയും സംരക്ഷകൻ് എന്ന നിലയിൽ പരാമർശിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. 16 മുതൽ 19 വരെ നൂറ്റാണ്ടുകളിൽ വി. യൗസേപ്പിനോടുള്ള ഭക്തി സഭയിൽ വളരുന്നതായി നാം കാണുന്നു. വിശുദ്ധ യൗസേപ്പിനോടുള്ള പ്രാർത്ഥന, നൊവേന, ലുത്തിനിയ, വെന്തിങ്ങ തുടങ്ങിയവ ഇക്കാലങ്ങളിൽ ലോകത്തിന്റെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലായി രൂപപ്പെട്ടവയാണ്. സന്ന്യാസസഭകളോട് ചേർ്ന്നു പലപ്പോഴായി ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഭക്താഭ്യാസങ്ങൾ വളർന്നുവന്നു. വി. ഫ്രാൻസിസ് ഡി സാലസ് തന്റെ Introduction to Devout Life- എന്ന ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിൽ ആദ്ധ്യാക്തികവളർച്ചയിൽ ആത്മശോധനയ്ക്കുശേഷം പരി. മറിയത്തിന്റെയും വി. യൗസേപ്പിന്റെയും ഓരോരുത്തരുടെയും നാമധാരികളായ വിശുദ്ധരുടെയും മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥം പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കാൻ ഉപദേശിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അമ്മത്രേസ്യായും കൊച്ചുത്രേസ്യായും അവരുടെ ആത്മീയവളർച്ചയിൽ വിശുദ്ധ യൗസേപ്പിനോടുള്ള ഭക്തി കാത്തുസൂക്ഷിച്ചവരാണ്. 15–ാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ സിക്സ്റ്റസ് 5–മൻ പാപ്പാ, മാർച്ച് 19 വി. യൗസേപ്പിന്റെ തിരുനാളായി പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചു. 1870 -ൽ ഒൻപതാം പീയൂസ് പാപ്പാ സാർവ്വത്രികസഭയുടെ സംരക്ഷകനായി Que mad modum Deus എന്ന തിരുവെഴുത്തിലൂടെ വി. യൗസേപ്പിനെ പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. 1889 –ൽ quam quam pluris എന്ന ചാക്രികലേഖനത്തിലൂടെ ലെയോ 13-മൻ പാപ്പായും യൗസേപ്പിതാവിനോട് സഭ മുഴുവൻ, മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥം പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണമെന്ന് ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ദൈവം, പരി. മറിയത്തെയും ഉണ്ണീശോയെയും സംരക്ഷിക്കാൻ ഏൽപ്പിച്ചതാണ് എന്നതിനാൽ യൗസേപ്പ് മറ്റേത് മനുഷ്യവ്യക്തിയെക്കാൾ മാനുഷിക ഔന്നത്യത്തെ (Human Dignity) ഉയർത്തിപ്പിടിച്ചവനാണ് എന്ന് ലെയോ പതിമൂന്നാമൻ പാപ്പാ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. വി. ജോൺ ഇരുപത്തിമൂന്നാം പാപ്പാ രണ്ടാം വത്തിക്കാൻ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ ആരംഭത്തിൽ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ മുഴുവൻ കാര്യങ്ങളും മാർ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ സംരക്ഷണയ്ക്ക് ഭരമേല്പിക്കുകയും കൗൺസിൽ കാലം മുഴുവൻ വി. കുർബ്ബാനയിൽ പരി.

നിരാകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹമെഴുതിയ Contre



കന്യകാമറിയത്തോടൊപ്പം വി. യൗസേപ്പിന്റെ പേരും സ്മരിക്കണമെന്ന് നിഷ്കർഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതും ജോസഫ് ഭക്തിയുടെ ചരിത്രത്തിലെ ശ്രദ്ധേയമായ അദ്ധ്യായമാണ്.

ജോൺ പോൾ രണ്ടാമൻ പാപ്പ രക്ഷകന്റെ പാലകൻ (Redemptoris Custos) എന്ന അപ്പസ്തോലിക ആഹ്വാനത്തിലൂടെ രക്ഷാകരചരിത്രത്തിൽ യൗസേപ്പിനുള്ള മഹനീയസ്ഥാനത്തെയും തിരുക്കുടുംബസംരക്ഷകന്റെ ഔന്നത്യത്തെയും പ്രകീർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ദൈവരഹസ്യങ്ങളുടെ കാവൽക്കാരനും പിതൃശൈലിയുടെ അത്യുദാരഭാവമുള്ളവനുമായി യൗസേപ്പിനെ പാപ്പാ മഹതാവൽക്കരിക്കുന്നു. പകാതയാർന്ന ഭർത്താവും കുടുംബനാഥനുമായി നീതിപൂർവ്വകമായ ജീവിതം നയിച്ച യൗസേപ്പ്, തച്ചന്റെ ജോലിയിൽ വ്യാപൃതനാകുന്നതിലൂടെ തൊഴിലിനെ ദൈവികപദ്ധതിയുടെ ഭാഗമായി ഉയർത്തുന്നതിൽ പങ്കുകാരനായി എന്നാണ് പ്രബോധനരേഖയിൽ വി. ജോൺ പോൾ രണ്ടാമൻ പാപ്പാ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നത്.

ബെനഡിക്ട് പാപ്പാ യൗസേപ്പിന്റെ പേർ വി. കുർബ്ബാനയിൽ അനുസ്മരിക്കാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ, ദൈവഹിതത്തിന്, സമ്പൂർണ്ണസമർപ്പണം നടത്തിയ യൗസേപ്പിന്റെ സ്ഥാനം രക്ഷാരഹസ്യത്തിന്റെ പരിശുദ്ധ മറിയത്തോടൊപ്പം ഉയർത്തുകയായിരുന്നു.

ഫ്രാൻസിസ് പാപ്പായുടെ പിതൃഹൃദയം (Patris Corde) എന്ന അപ്പസ്തോലിക എഴുത്തിലൂടെ വി. യൗസേപ്പിൽ നിറഞ്ഞുനിന്ന പിതൃഭാവത്തെ, സ്നേഹിക്കപ്പെട്ടതും സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നവനുമായ ദൈവികഭാവത്തെ തനിക്കേൽപ്പിക്കപ്പെട്ട തിരുക്കുടുംബത്തിൽ ധൈര്യസമേതം മൗനമായി പ്രഘോഷിക്കുന്ന പ്രവർത്തനനിരതമായ ഒരു പിതാവിനെ, നമുക്ക് കാണാനാകും. അറിയാത്ത വഴികളിലേക്കും സാഹചര്യങ്ങളിലേക്കും അന്ധകാരത്തിലേക്കും ഇറങ്ങുമ്പോൾ, ആധുനികജീവിതത്തിലും നിഴലുകളിലും അജ്ഞതകളിലും ദൈവഹിതത്തിന്റെ വെളിച്ചം കാണാൻ നമ്മെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നവനാണ് യൗസേപ്പ്. തിരുകുടുംബത്തിൽനിന്നും തിരുസ്സഭയിലേക്കും അവിടെനിന്നും നാം ഓരോരുത്തരുടെയും കുടുംബത്തിലേക്കും ദൈവവിളികളുടെ ഉൾപൊരുളുകളറിയാൻ, മൗനമായി ദൈവഹിതത്തിനു സമർപ്പിക്കാൻ നമ്മെ വി. യൗസേപ്പ് പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

A Pilgrimage to St. Joseph

Fr. Tom Olikkarott
Eparchy of Thalassery

The Biography of St. Joseph

Sextus Julius Africanus, a historian

Who was St. Joseph? Gospels in a very broad sense call him 'Son of David'. However, while the genealogy narrative of Mathew calls him 'Son of Jacob' (Mathew 1.16), Luke indicates Joseph as son of Heli (Luke.2.23). A seemingly satisfactory answer to these contradictions about the family roots of St. Joseph is available in the writings of

from the second century. This
Roman Christian historian dated
Jesus' conception to March 25th
and subsequently birth of
Christ to December 25th.
In his opinion, this
inconsistency regarding
the two different names
of Joseph's father in the
genealogy narratives is
attributed to the Jewish

custom of 'Levirate Marriage' (Deut. 25. 5-10). Joseph's grandfather was Matthat, who had two sons: Jacob And Heli. Jacob married and died before bringing an offspring.

According to the Levirate Law, his brother Heli married his brother Jacob's widowed wife and begot children for his brother. Thus three children were born of that marriage: Joseph, Alpheus, and Cleophas. It is firmly believed that Jacob, Joses, Judah and Simone referred to as brothers of Jesus in the gospels are children of Alpheus and Cleophas. Mathew, since he addressed the genealogy of Jesus to the Jewish Christians who were familiar with the 'Levirate Marriage', wrote about the legal fatherhood of Joseph according to the 'levirate law', whereas Luke, who composed the genealogy of Jesus for the pagan Christian community who were ignorant about this

'levirate law', ascribed the fatherhood of Joseph to the biological father of Joseph. Some informal writings mention Joseph's mother's name as Rachel, which coincidentally is the name of the mother of Joseph from

the Old Testament. Some ancient texts like the protoevangelium of James, the history of Joseph the Carpenter and the Panarion remarks about the wedding between Joseph and Mary. Accordingly, Mary was born to Joachim and Anna at their old age. Born as an answer to their prayers, Mary was offered in the temple. She lived in the temple from the age of three

and a half years to the age of marriage. Mary, who lost her parents at the age of twelve, was then entrusted to the responsibility of the chief priest. Since Mary belonged to the tribe of Judah, grooms of the same tribe were invited to the temple. Joseph, was from the city of Bethlehem near Jerusalem, lived a chaste life according to the Nazirite vow, also reached the temple since he could not disobey the command of the priests. The chief priest then handed over a dried stem of Lily and during the prayer, as a sign from heaven, the stem with Joseph, sprouted and lily bloomed with flowers.

It is from this tradition that we see images of St. Joseph holding lily flowers. During their betrothal, the chief priest blessed them saying, "I commend and entrust you the most holy virgin of Israel: be more and more worthy of her" and to which Joseph replied, "I will put my strength and my manly authority at her service and no sacrifice of her behalf will be heavy for me". (Similar narratives can be found in the Poem of the Man - God by Maria Valtorta) After the betrothal, since she had already lost her parents, she went to the house at Nazareth and lived there. It is here that she receives the Annunciation. According to the narratives in the book 'The day Christ Died', Joseph was twentysix at the time of betrothal and was a carpenter. It could be assumed that being a carpenter, Joseph migrated from Bethlehem to the city of Sepphoris, which was just six kilometres from Nazareth in search of a job. There are very strong traditions which say that Mary's parents lived in the city of Sepphoris where the crusaders later constructed a church in the name of St. Anna.

Some informal texts and traditions tell about the last moments of St. Joseph; It was when Jesus was about thirty years old that Joseph died. St. Bede of England mentions in his writings that Joseph was buried at the valley of Josephat near Jerusalem. Since the fourteenth century, the commemoration of the death of St. Joseph is made on March 19th. St. Francis de Sales as well as St. Alphonsus Liguori considered him the patron of a happy death. Early church traditions

proclaimed the death of St. Joseph to be the most fortunate death: after all, a death in the presence of Jesus and Mary; What can be more fortunate than that! Maria Valtorta in her "of the Poem of the Man-God" elaborates the vision of St. Joseph at his death.



St. Joseph, through his life, demonstrates to discern and perceive the will of God even in our venture unto the unknown paths filled with shadows of uncertainties and darkness of ignorance.

St. Joseph in the Traditions and the Teachings of the Church.

The tradition of the Church has always acknowledged and venerated St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family and the Holy Catholic Church. A theological vision about St. Joseph in the traditions of the Church is first seen in the writings of St. Jerome (AD 347-420). Later in the fourth century, in his writings against Helvidius (Contre Helvidius) Jerome establishes and defends the claim that not only Holy Mary but St. Joseph himself was a Celibate. In the eight century, St Joseph began to be known as 'Caretaker of Christ' and 'foster father of Jesus'. By the time of Thomas Aquinas, in his Summa Thologica, St. Joseph was referred to as 'Protector of the Holy Family' and specially as the protector of Mary and Infant Jesus.

Between the sixteenth and the nineteenth century, veneration towards St. Joseph flourished in the Church. Prayer to St. Joseph, Novena to St. Joseph, Litany of St. Joseph,



And to which Joseph replied, "I will put my strength and my manly authority at her service and no sacrifice of her behalf will be heavy for me".

Scapulars etc developed in the several parts of the world during this period and several such devotional practices also developed along with several religious congregations. St. Francis De Sales in his book 'Introduction to Devout life' advises that for a right growth in spiritual life after making a proper examination of consciousness each one must ask for the intercession of Holy Mother, St. Joseph and each one's patron saint. St. Theresa of Avila as well as St. Theresa of Lisieux, in their spiritual journey, always treasured their devotion to St. Joseph. It was in the fifteenth century that Pope Sixtus V declared March 19th as the feast of St. Joseph. Pope Pius IX, in 1870, by his decree named Quemadmodum Deus declared St. Joseph as the Patron of the universal Church. Later in 1889, Leo XIII in his Encyclical Quamquam

pluries exhorted the universal Church to ask for the intercession of St. Joseph. He continuous to teach: "And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men." Devotion to St. Joseph gained notable attention when Pope St. John XXIII, at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, entrusted the whole proceedings of the council to the protection of St. Joseph and instructed that the name of St. Joseph be commemorated along with that of Holy Mary during all the liturgical celebrations throughout the council days.

St. John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation Redemptoris Custos acclaimed the role of St. Joseph in the salvific history and his greatness as the protector of the Holy Family. He glorifies St. Joseph as the Guardian of the mystery of God and for his true fatherhood. Leading a 'Just life' as a mature husband and head of the family and engaging himself as a carpenter, says Pope John Paul II, St. Joseph raised the dignity of human labour as part of the plan of God.

With the beginning of the commemoration of the name of St. Joseph during the holy eucharistic celebrations, Pope Benedict XVI, raised the complete sacrifice of St. Joseph as equal to that of the Holy Mother. Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic letter Patris Corde, familiarizes us towards the paternity of St. Joseph, who silently proclaims the ever-loving God he experienced to the Holy Family entrusted in his care. St. Joseph, through his life, demonstrates to discern and perceive the will of God even in our venture unto the unknown paths filled with shadows of uncertainties and darkness of ignorance. The life of St. Joseph is an invitation to each of us to discern the mystery of the divine vocation: in the holy family, in the Holy Church as well as in each of our families, and to silently surrender to the will of God.

Translated by
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LENT

in the context of

Covid 19 and the Year of St. Joseph

Msgr. Dr. Francis Eluvathingal
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'Not a mere observance but a time of renewal' is the core understanding emphasized about lent during this year. Pope Francis in his message given for Lent 2021 sharpens his thought about lent as a time for "Renewing Faith, Hope and Love". Deepening our faith in the one who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8) is the first agenda in our Lenten journey. Renewing our faith is connected to drawing from the "living water" of hope, and receiving the love of God with open hearts, which makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.

This renewal is enabled in our lives through fasting, abstinence, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18). The path of poverty and self-denial (fasting and abstinence), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and childlike dialogue with the Father (prayer) makes it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith.

living hope and effective charity.

In the recent Apostolic Letter Patris Corde, declaring the year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis states that "Fathers are not born, but made". Keeping the same line of thinking, I feel that saying, "Christians are not born, but made" makes sense. A man does not become a Christian by simply getting the baptismal water poured on his head but by taking up the



Pope Francis states further that the Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated.



responsibility by becoming a Christian. Whenever a Christian accepts responsibility for loving God and the brethren and shows the courage to live a life of sacrifices and sufferings,

a real Christian starts being formed in him. St. Paul asks the Galatians: "My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!" (4:19). This getting formed is a process and lent helps Christians get Christ formed in them during this period.

During lent in this year of St. Joseph, we are still under the pressure of the Coronavirus. It is good to learn from St. Joseph who found happiness not only merely in self-sacrifice but in self-gift. "In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Our world today needs Christians like Joseph. Pope Francis states, the world "has no use for tyrants who would dominate others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction. Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice". In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45).

In these times of trouble, especially with Covid 19, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, to speak of hope may appear challenging. Pope Francis states further that the Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated. Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: "Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God's forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn". In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes



enough simply to be kind, to be "willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference" (Fratelli Tutti, 223-224).

Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion. Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness.

Such is the case too with our almsgiving, whether small or large, when offered with joy and simplicity.

To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of Covid-19. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord's word to his Servant, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you" (Is 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters.

Our love and charity shall be towards the ordinary people especially those who are often overlooked. In the light of the pandemic, Pope Francis throws light on those 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" to those men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, and so very many others. 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". A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

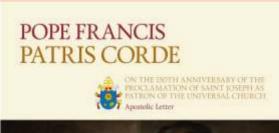
Not merely during the period of lent but every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. Pope Francis concludes the message for lent by stating, "the call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us, the communities and the individuals to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father." Let this lent be a period of renewal in faith, hope and charity.

PATRIS CORDE

(WITH A FATHER'S HEART)



Fr. Tenson Paul Chancellor, Diocese of Mississauga





t. Joseph had a loving heart of a father and now he is interceding and loving each one of us with this tender loving heart. In the four gospels, we can see St. Joseph is pictured as a loving father who loves and cares for Jesus "with the heart of a father". The Holy Father Pope Francis declared this year, an 'year dedicated especially to St. Joseph' and wants us to grow in a particular devotion and love towards St. Joseph.

Pope Francis announced the 'year of St. Joseph' from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021 to call in the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. Writing an Apostolic Letter named Patris Corde (With a father's heart), to the entire Church, Pope encourages us to meditate on the virtues gleamed in the life of St. Joseph, to imitate him and to pray his intercession for the whole Church, for our personal and family life.

The Popes at different times in the Church have emphasised upon the importance of the devotion to St. Joseph. It was on December 8, 1870 that Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church by the promulgation of the decree Quemadmodum Deus. The Blessed Pope emphasizes in the decree that 'when in these troublesome times the Church is beset by enemies on every side and is weighed down by calamites so heavy that ungodly men assert that gates of hell have at length prevailed against her, he constituted St. Joseph as the Patron of the church'.

His Successor, Pope Leo XIII reminds us of the special motives for which St. Joseph has been proclaimed Patron of the Church, and from which the Church looks for singular benefit from his patronage and protection, are that Joseph was the spouse of Mary and that he was the reputed father of Jesus Christ. (Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter, Quamquam Pluris, August 15, 1889).

Again, Pope St. John Paul II specifies that "inspired by the gospel, the Fathers of the Church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St. Joseph took care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical body, that is the Church". (Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Redemptoris Custos, August 15, 1989). As St. Joseph's dedication and obedience to the will of God protected Jesus and Mary from the challenges they confronted, the Church today is more in need of this father's patronage and protection than any other time in the history of the Church.

Pope Francis, in this Apostolic letter, wishes to share some personal reflections on the extraordinary figure St. Joseph, so close to our own human experiences. During this time of pandemic, Pope recalls many people who are silently rendering their services and life to sustain the world. There are so many people who serve the world behind the curtain. The long list contains the doctors, nurses, storekeepers, supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men, and women religious etc. The fathers, mothers, grandfathers, teachers care for the children to accept and deal with the crisis, looking ahead with hope, encouraging the practice of prayer. All these men and women go unnoticed often. But all they live a life similarly led by St. Joseph. The saint reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of

salvation. The same character of St. Joseph that is serving all and hiding behind the scenes was very much learned and practised by Jesus in his future ministry. It is something divine which requires a particular grace from the heaven above.

Who was St. Joseph?

He was a lovely carpenter (Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (Mt 1: 18; Lk 1: 27). He was a "just man" (Mt 1: 19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (Lk 2: 22. 27. 39) and through four dreams (Mt 1: 20; 2: 13. 19. 22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them elsewhere" (Lk 2: 7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (Lk 2: 8-10) and the Magi (Mt 2: 1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel (Mt 1: 21). In the temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother (Lk 2: 22-35). To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (Mt 2: 13-18). After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple. Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year old Jesus and they anxiously sought him out and found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law (Lk 2: 41-50).

A Beloved Father: Saint Joseph was a loving father. The greatness of Saint Joseph rests in the fact that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. He turned his human vocation to domestic love and converted it into a superhuman oblation of himself. His heart and all abilities were placed at the service of Messiah and the Holy Family.

The Christians have a special devotion to Saint Joseph. There are many prayers offered to him and days dedicated to St. Joseph's feasts. Each Wednesday is marked in the spiritual journal as a day dedicated to the devotion towards this great saint. Many Churches and institutions are named after him. In our wants, we have a definite assistance in his name because it is assured in the word of God as, "go to Joseph" (Gen 41: 55). Saint Joseph stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testament. All the saints had a noteworthy love towards Saint Joseph, our beloved father. To mention one, we see St. Teresa of Avila who chose St. Joseph as her advocate and intercessor.

A Tender and Loving Father: As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus teaching him to walk, taking him by hand, bending down to him, feeding him. (Hos 11: 3-4). Jesus always saw the tender love of God in Joseph. "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103: 13). The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (Rom 4: 18) through our weakness (2 Cor 12: 7-9). Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weakness with tender mercy. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weakness, our frailty. Joseph's fears, even through it, 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

An Obedient Father: God revealed his salvific plans to Joseph, as it was for Mary. He had dreams in which God revealed his will to him. In the first dream, an angel helped him to resolve his grave dilemma to take Mary as his wife, for the child was conceived from the Holy Spirit (Mt 1: 20-21). Joseph responded quickly by accepting Mary. In the second dream as the angel told him, he took the child and Mother

and fled to Egypt to save them from Herod (Mt 2: 13). Once again, he promptly paid attention to the timely warning given. In a third dream, the angel told him that those who sought to kill the child were dead and ordered him to rise. take the child and his mother and return to the land of Israel (Mt 2: 19-20). He obeyed. Now for the fourth dream, as he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth" (Mt 2: 22-23). Joseph obeyed all the rules of the country. Joseph said his "fiat" in all moments of his life like Mary did. Jesus who learned at the school of Joseph in his hidden life did the same in his life. In Gethsemane. Jesus chose to do the will of the



This is true freedom.
Joseph teaches us to love
with freedom and chastity.
This maturity is needed
in all vocations, whether
it is priesthood, consecrated
life, or family life.

Father rather than his own becoming obedient unto death on the cross (Phil 2: 8).

An Accepting Father: Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. Today in our world where psychological, verbal, and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man. Many times, we do not understand the

meaning of happenings in our life. Joseph set aside his own ideas to accept the course of events and mysterious as they seemed. The spirituality of Joseph is not one that explains the reasons but one that accepts. He was a man who faced the situations of life courageously. Fortitude, a gift of the Holy Spirit, had a brilliant expression in the life of Joseph. God gives us the strength saying, "do not be afraid". When the things in life do not come as we wish, accept them as it is. This is the way Joseph accepted the things in life. We receive this courage if we live the gospel in our daily life. Joseph did not look for the shortcuts to escape from life, but he faced everything with open eyes and took responsibility for all the situations. Joseph accepted everyone with a merciful heart especially the weak and the vulnerable. This gives us encouragement to accept all the weak for God often chooses what and who is weak.

A Creatively Courageous Father: God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage. There are difficulties in life. In the face of difficulties in life, 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. God performed miracles through Joseph saving the child and mother from the danger. God counted the courage of Joseph. The world may always depend on the mercy of the strong and mighty, but the good news of the gospel consists in showing that the salvific plans of God did not depend on the arrogance and violence of the worldly powers. Joseph was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence. If at times, God seems not to help us, surely this does not mean that we have been abandoned. but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves. The Holy Family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. Joseph was the protector of Jesus and Mary. He is the same protector of the Church as he was of the Holy Family.

A Working Father: 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 labour. Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the kingdom. Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself. God really shows us the meaning of work. Let us, in this crucial period of this pandemic, be cautious so that our fellow beings in our circumstances do not suffer, lacking a job for livelihood.

A Father in the Shadows: Joseph was the shadow of the heavenly Father in his relationship with Jesus. One acquires a fatherly heart not only by being a biological father for a child, but when he takes the responsibility to raise the child as God's plan. Fatherhood also consists in giving a responsible freedom to the children to grow without making them over protected in life. This is very important for the growth of a child. Joseph was a most chaste father. Chastity is a beautiful virtue which involves a freedom from all selfish motives of one's life. This is true freedom. Joseph teaches us to love with freedom and chastity. This maturity is needed in all vocations, whether it is priesthood, consecrated life, or family life. One reaches fatherhood when he realises that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way we are all like Joseph, a shadow of the heavenly Father.

Saint Joseph is a model of perfect sanctity, who lived an exemplary life of a father. Our duty now is to imitate the virtues of his life and be holy. Let us keep in mind the challenging question of St. Augustine: "what they could do, can you not also do? Late have I loved you, beauty ever ancient, ever new!" Let us ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: Our conversion.

Celebrating THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH





Fr. Joju Arackal Chancellor, Diocese of Kalyan

The Vatican announced that this year (December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021) would be a year dedicated to St. Joseph, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ. The announcement coincides with the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX with the document *Quemadmodum* Deus on December 8, 1870.

A good way to begin this special year, especially during this season of Lent, could be to read Pope Francis' apostolic letter, reflecting on the fatherhood of Joseph: *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart).

Plenary Indulgence

As an extra special blessing to accompany this celebration, the Church offers a plenary indulgence to all the Catholic faithful, under the usual conditions (Confession, Communion, and praying for the pope's intentions), if they participate in the Year of St. Joseph.

(For details on the usual conditions for a plenary indulgence and to learn more about indulgences in general, read Deacon-structing Indulgences.)

Participation in the Year of St. Joseph includes:

 meditation on the Our Father for at least 30 minutes, or participation in a spiritual retreat of at least one day which includes a meditation on St. Joseph,

performing a corporal or spiritual

work of mercy,

• recitation of the Holy Rosary as a family or engaged couple,

 entrusting your activities every day to the protection of St. Joseph, or invoking his intercession so that those seeking employment may find work and that all may have dignified work.

recitation of the Litany of
St. Joseph (for those
belonging to the Latin
tradition), or the
Akathistos of St. Joseph in whole or in part (for
those belonging to the
Byzantine tradition), or
some other prayer to St.
Joseph (for those belonging
to other liturgical traditions)
for the persecuted Church
and for the relief of all
Christians suffering all forms
of persecution, and

• recitation of any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, especially on these particular days: March 19, May 1, the feast of the Holy Family (December 27, this year), St. Joseph's Sunday (Byzantine tradition), the 19th day of each month, and every Wednesday.

The Church particularly extends the gift of this indulgence to "the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house" in this time of pandemic, as long as they are detached from sin and intend to fulfill the usual conditions as soon as possible, if they "recite an act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, comfort of the sick and patron of a happy death, offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts of their lives."

Let this year help every father to have a better understanding of the dignity of fatherhood, to retreat to the obligations and to imbibe the same with fidelity and sincerity and to impart it in one's daily life. I wish and pray that the special dedication of this year helps us to strengthen our family bond and to have more peace and joy in personal as well as family life.

St. Joseph: A Life Lived in Silence

Todays' world often complains that there is hardly a listener while there is a lot to be told. The silence that St. Joseph adopted is the answer to those who have lost their peace of mind with troubled thoughts and polluted minds. His silence had a new rhythm and dignity. It was not an escape from the insecurities of suffering. The greatness and uniqueness of Joseph, the head of the family, lies in the fact that his silence was a dialogue and consultation with God. Through this God-man

dialogue, Joseph's life teaches us that wisdom must take precedence over emotion in family life and family relationships.

We can see this heart-to-heart conversation with God during the dilemma of having to take Mary as his wife, when he had to flee to Egypt with baby Jesus and on his way back from Egypt. This is interpreted in terms of his 'vision' and 'dream' in the Scripture. Clearly, those decisions were mature and in harmony with God's will.



The silence that St. Joseph adopted is the answer to those who have lost their peace of mind with troubled thoughts and polluted minds. His silence had a new rhythm and dignity.

Even today, the path of silence is a challenge for those who lead a family life, especially for the family heads. The daily family prayer that families should have, in a sense, is a dialogue with God. Understanding the importance of the Holy Sacraments and approaching them with purity and zeal and receiving frequently the holy sacraments, especially the sacrament of confession with a specific gap would certainly help us to have a conversation with God and it will lead us into silence.

St. Joseph: A Great Personality

We need to pay attention to the reaction of St. Joseph when he learns that the girl he betrothed was pregnant without his knowledge. He thought like this - even if I am ridiculed, Mary

shall not get insulted in society and the determination to not let Mary be criticized led Joseph to the thought of leaving her in secret. Joseph, the true father, exemplifies through his life that true success is not in being known to the world, but in being faithful to God and to one's own conscience. St. 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.

St. Joseph: Obedient to God's will

St. Joseph, who sought the will of God in the time of troubles and accepted Mary as his wife, is a challenge to today's world order. Today, when society considers women as weak and tired and prone to being attacked physically, mentally and emotionally; the act of St. Joseph is very much significant. May this style of St. Joseph who accepted Mary with full mind and consent, identifying the will of God, the Father, be a model and inspiration for all of us to respect women, recognise womanhood and admire motherhood.

Activities proposed for the Year of St. Joseph:

- 1. Place either an icon or a statue of St. Joseph decorated in every church and family.
- 2. Present the logo of the year in every Church.
- 3. Add the given Karozutha prayer during the Holy Qurbana.
- 4. Recite the given prayer to St. Joseph during family prayer.
- 5. All are invited and encouraged to participate in the online family renewal retreat to be conducted at the diocesan level on March 12th -14th 2021.
- 6. Make a family pilgrimage to any of the churches named after St.Joseph.
- 7. Obtain the Special Indulgence granted by the Holy Father this year by fulfilling the required conditions for the same.

ധൂപാർഷണവും പാപമോചനപ്രാർത്ഥനയും



മാർ തോമസ് ഇലവനാൽ

കല്വാൺ രൂപതയുടെ ച്ചെതാൻ

പ്രാർത്ഥനകളും ധൂപവും അങ്ങയെ പ്രസാദിപ്പിക്കട്ടെ

നമ്മുടെ കുർബ്ബാനയിലെ അഞ്ചാമത്തേതും അവസാനത്തേതും ഏറ്റം ആഘോഷപൂർവ്വകവുമായ ധൂപാർപ്പണമാണ് അനുരജ്ഞനശുശ്രൂഷയിൽ ഉള്ളത്. ദൈവത്തോട് അനുരജ്ഞനപ്പെടുവാനാഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നവൻ തന്നെത്തന്നെ വിശുദ്ധീകരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഇത് നമ്മെ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ദൈവവുമായുളള അനുരജ്ഞനത്തിന്റേയും പാപമോചനത്തിനായി ദൈവത്തോടുളള അപേക്ഷയുടേയും പ്രതീകമായി ധൂപാർപ്പണം നിലകൊളളുന്നു. വൈദികനും ശുശ്രൂഷികളും ജനങ്ങളും ഒന്നുചേർന്ന് ദൈവത്തിൽനിന്നുളള പാപപ്പൊറുതിക്കായപേക്ഷിക്കുന്ന കർമ്മമാണിത്. യഹൂദർ ധൂപാർപ്പണത്തെ പാപപ്പരിഹാരകർമ്മമായി കരുതിയിരുന്നു (പുറ. 30:1–10).

ഈ ധൂപാർപ്പണപ്രാർത്ഥനയ്ക്ക് അഞ്ചു ഭാഗങ്ങളുണ്ട്: ധൂപത്തിന്റെ ആശീർവ്വാദം, കാർമ്മികന്റെ സ്വയം വിശുദ്ധീകരണപ്രാർത്ഥന, ശുശ്രൂഷികളേയും, ജനങ്ങളേയും ബലിവസ്തുക്കളേയും സുഗന്ധപൂരിതമാക്കണമേ എന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥന എന്നിവയാണവ. 'ശ്രേഷ്ഠപുരോഹിതനായ അഹറോനർപ്പിച്ച ധൂപംപോലെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനകളും ധൂപവും അങ്ങയെ പ്രസാദിപ്പിക്കട്ടെ' എന്ന്

കടങ്ങളും പാപങ്ങളും എന്നോടു ക്ഷമിക്കേണമേ

പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണ് കാർമ്മികൻ ധൂപം

ആശീർവ്വദിക്കുന്നത്.

തുടർന്ന് കാർമ്മികൻ രണ്ടു കരങ്ങളും, ശുശ്രൂഷിയുടെ നേരെ നീട്ടുമ്പോൾ ശുശ്രൂഷി പുരോഹിതന്റെ കരങ്ങൾ ധൂപിക്കുന്നു. തൽസമയം, "കർത്താവായ ദൈവമേ, പാപമാലിന്യങ്ങൾ കഴുകി അങ്ങയുടെ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ ദിവ്യപരിമളത്താൽ എന്നെ പൂരിതനാക്കണമേ" എന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. തുടർന്ന് ധൂപം തന്നിലേക്ക് ആവാഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് കരങ്ങൾ നെഞ്ചിന്മേൽ കുരിശാകൃതിയിൽ ചേർത്തു പിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് കാർമ്മികൻ തനിക്കുവേണ്ടിത്തന്നെ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു: "എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാത്തതുമായ എന്റെ കടങ്ങളും പാപങ്ങളും എന്നോട് ക്ഷമിക്കണമേ" എന്ന്. ഇവിടെ ധൂപാർപ്പണത്തിലൂടെ പാപമോചനത്തിനായും ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ പരിമളത്താൽ പൂരിതനാകുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയുമാണ് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നത്. പാപമാലിന്യങ്ങൾ കഴുകിക്കളഞ്ഞാൽ മാത്രമേ ദൈവസ്നേഹപരിമളത്താൽ നിറയപ്പെടുകയുളളൂ. ധൂപാർപ്പണത്തിനുശേഷം കാർമ്മികൻ, വി. കുർബ്ബാന ആദ്യമായി കരങ്ങളിലെടുക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പായി തന്നെത്തന്നെയും തന്റെ കരങ്ങളെയും വിശുദ്ധീകരിക്കണമേ എന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥനയാണ് ധൂപാർപ്പണത്തിലുള്ളത്. തുടർന്ന് മദ്ബഹായിൽ ശുശ്രൂഷ ചെയ്യുന്ന സഹായികളെ 'വിശുദ്ധിയുടെ പരിമളത്താൽ പൂരിതരാക്കണമേ' എന്നു പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ പാരമ്പര്യം

അതിനുശേഷം, പുരോഹിതൻ വലതുകരം ജനങ്ങളുടെമേൽ നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ട് "ഈ ജനത്തെ വിശുദ്ധിയുടെ പരിമളത്താൽ പൂരിതരാക്കണമേ" എന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ധൂപാർപ്പണം മാർത്തോമ്മാക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിലവിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നതും ഭാരതസംസ്ക്കാരവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടതുമായ ഒരു പാരമ്പര്യത്തിൽ നിന്ന് രൂപംകൊണ്ടതാണെന്ന അഭിപ്രായവുമുണ്ട്. സീറോമലബാർ സഭയിൽ, പളളികളിൽ മദ്ധ്യഭാഗത്തായി ധൂപം വച്ചിരുന്നു എന്നും ജനങ്ങൾ അതിനെ സമീപിച്ച് ധൂപം കരങ്ങളിൽ ആവാഹിച്ച് നെഞ്ചോടുചേർത്ത് പാപപ്പൊറുതിക്കായി പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചിരുന്നു എന്നുമുളള പാരമ്പര്യമുണ്ട്. (Dom Alexis de Menezes, Jornada) അതിനുപകരമായി എന്നവണ്ണം ശുശ്രൂഷിയേയും സമൂഹത്തേയും സുഗന്ധപൂരിതമാക്കണമേ എന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടെ പുരോഹിതൻ ശുശ്രൂഷിയുടെമേലും ജനങ്ങളുടെമേലും കരങ്ങളുയർത്തി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെമേലുള്ള ഈ ധൂപപ്രാർത്ഥന സീറോമലബാർ കുർബ്ബാനയിൽ മാത്രമുള്ള ക്രമമാണ് എന്നത് ഇത് മർത്തോമ്മാക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളുടെ പാരമ്പര്യത്തിൽ നിന്നുടലെടുത്തതാണെന്നതിന്റെ തെളിവാണ്.

ബലിപീഠത്തെ പരിമളപൂരിതമാക്കണമേ

അവസാനമായി ബലിപീഠത്തിന്മേൽ കൈനീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ട് ഈ ബലിപീഠത്തേയും പാപമോചകമായ തിരുശ്ശരീരരക്തങ്ങളേയും പരിമളപൂരിതമാക്കണമേ എന്നു പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. കാർമ്മികനും ശുശ്രൂഷികളും സമൂഹവും അൾത്താരയിൽ നിന്നും തിരുശ്ശരീരരക്തങ്ങളാലാണ് പാപമോചനം സ്വീക്രിച്ച് ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ പരിമളത്താൽ പുരിതരായിത്തീരുന്നതെന്ന് കാണിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണ് കാർമ്മികൻ ബലിപീഠത്തിന്മേലും ധൂപാർപ്പണപ്രാർത്ഥന നടത്തുന്നത്. ബലിപീഠത്തിന് രണ്ടു വിശേഷണങ്ങളാണ് കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നത്. 'മിശിഹായുടെ തിരുക്കല്ലറയുടെ സാദൃശ്യം, അവിടുത്തെ സിംഹാസനം. അൾത്താരയിൽ അവിടുത്തെ മരണത്തേയും, സംസ്കാരത്തേയും ഉത്ഥാനത്തേയും അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് തിരുക്കല്ലറ എന്ന് വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. അൾത്താരയിൽ ഈശോയുടെ പെസഹാരഹസ്യം നമ്മൾ അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നു. മഹത്വപൂർണ്ണനായ ഈശോയുടെ സാന്നിദ്ധ്യത്തെ ദ്യോതിപ്പിക്കാനാണ് 'സിംഹാസന'മെന്ന് വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. ഈശോ

സംസ്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ടശേഷം ഈശോയുടെ ശരീരത്തിൽ സുഗന്ധം പൂശുവാനായി ഭക്തസ്ത്രീകൾ കല്ലറയെ സമീപിക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലൊ (മർക്കോ. 16:1-2). 'തിരുശ്ശരീരരക്തങ്ങളെ പരിമളപൂരിതമാക്കണമേ' എന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥന ഈ സംഭവത്തെ അനുസ്മരിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ധൂപപ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ കാണുന്ന, "പരിമളത്താൽപൂരിതമാക്കണമേ" എന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥനയ്ക്ക് 'പാപങ്ങൾ നീക്കിക്കളയണമേ' എന്നും ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റേയും കൃപയുടെയും പരിമളത്താൽ നിറയ്ക്കണമേ എന്നും അർത്ഥമുണ്ട്. ദൈവത്തിൽ നിന്ന് പാപമോചനം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ദൈവസ്നേഹം കൊണ്ട് നമ്മൾ നിറയുന്നു. ഈ അർത്ഥത്തിലാണ് പരിമളപൂരിതമാക്കണമേ എന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നത്.

സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ പരിമളം

'പരിമളപൂരിതനാക്കണമേ' എന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥന വി. പൗലോസിന്റെ വാക്കുകളെ അനുസ്മരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. കർത്താവിനെക്കുറിച്ചുളള ജ്ഞാനത്തിന്റെ പരിമളം പരത്തുവാനായി കർത്താവ് തന്നെവിളിച്ചു എന്ന് പൗലോസ്ശ്ലീഹാ പറയുന്നുണ്ട് (2 കൊറി. 2:14). ഞങ്ങൾ മിശിഹായുടെ പരിമളമാണെന്നും പൗലോസ് അനുസ്മരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മൾ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ പരിമളമായിത്തീരുന്നതിന് പാപമാലിനൃങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് ശുദ്ധീകരിക്കപ്പെടണം. അനുരജ്ഞനം വഴി ലഭിക്കുന്ന ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ പരിമളത്താൽ ബലിപീഠവും ബലിവസ്തുക്കളും ബലിയർപ്പകരും നിറയുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയുളള പ്രാർത്ഥനയാണ് ഇവിടെ കാണുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ ആരാധനാസമുഹം മുഴുവനും ദൈവത്തിൽനിന്ന് വിശുദ്ധീകരണവും പാപമോചനവും പ്രാപിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയുളള പ്രാർത്ഥനകളാണ് ഈ ധൂപാർപ്പണശുശ്രൂഷയിലുളളത്.

Incensing and the Prayer for Remission of Sins

The fifth and last incensing in our Qurbana is more solemn. This incensing is the symbol of our prayer to God for remission of sins and for reconciliation with God. This reminds us that anyone who desires to get reconciled with God should sanctify oneself. This rite is the

prayer of the celebrant, deacon and the people imploring God for the remission of sins. For the Jewish people too incensing had a propitiatory significance (Ex. 30:1-10). This incensing has five parts: blessing of the incense, the prayer of the priest for self

purification, prayer over the deacon, over the community and the altar and the oblation. While the priest blesses the incense he prays: "Mary this incense and our prayers be pleasing to you, just as the incense, that Aaron, the High priest offered you".

Forgive me all my Sins

After this prayer the priest extends both his hands and the deacon incenses them. At that time the priest recites: "O Lord our God, wash me from my iniquities and fill me with your divine fragrance..." Then bringing the hands close to the heart in the form of the Cross he says: "Forgive me all my sins and offenses known and unknown to me". Here the priest is praying for the remission of sins and to be filled with the fragrance of God's love. If only one in cleansed of sins one can be filled with the fragrance of God's love. In this rite and prayer the priest is imploring God to purify his hands before taking the Holy Eucharist in his hands for the first time. This is followed by the prayer of the priest to sanctify those who serve at the altar.

Tradition of our Church

Then the celebrant prays stretching his hands over the congregation: "Fill with fragrance this assembly that is awaiting your mercy with hope". This incensing of the people is to be understood in the light of a tradition that is believed to have existed among the St. Thomas Christians. There was a tradition of keeping incense at the middle of the Haikala and the people used to come near to it and received the incense in the hands and used to bring it close to their chest with the prayer for forgiveness of sins. (Dom Alexis de Menezes. Jornada) Instead of that here the priest extends his hands over the community and prays "fill with fragrance this assembly". The fact that this rite of incensing the community is unique and found only in the Syro-Malabar Qurbana in a proof that it has come from the St. Thomas Christian tradition, which is very much related to Indian tradition and context.

Fill with Fragrance this Altar

Lastly the priest extends his hands to the altar and prays: "Fill with fragrance the propitiatory Body and Blood of Christ and this altar". This rite of incensing the altar and oblation signifies that the priest and the community receive the remission of sins and are filled with the fragrance of God's love through the body and blood of Jesus on the altar. The altar is given two qualifications: Throne of God and the image of the sepulcher of Jesus Christ. Altar is qualified as the sepulcher because we celebrate the death burial and resurrection of Christ on it. The 'throne' reminds us of the glorious presence of God on it. After the burial of Jesus, the pious women approached the tomb to anoint the body with spices (Mk. 16:1-2). The prayer "fill with fragrance the propitiatory Body and Blood of Christ" reminds us of the action of those pious women. The prayer during the incensing "fill with fragrance" is actually a supplication to blot out the sins and to fill us with the fragrance of God's love and grace. To the extend our sins are forgiven we are also filled with the love of God. This is the meaning of the prayer 'fill us with your fragrance'. Thus the rite of incensing is primarily the prayer and supplication for the remission of sins.

Fragrance of Love

This prayer 'fill with fragrance' reminds us of the words of St. Paul: "God uses us to make the knowledge about Christ spread everywhere like sweet fragrance" (2 Cor. 2:14). He also reminds that "we are like a sweet smelling incense offered by Christ to God" (v. 15). In order to become incense we should be purified from all sins. Hence here in this rite we have the prayers imploring God to fill the altar, the oblation and the community with the fragrance of God's love through the rite of reconciliation. As we see the whole rite of incensing is the prayer that the worshiping community may receive purification and remission of sin from God.

Jose Paapan & the four Hs!



"I know it sounds weird but, who are you? I don't really know you. I want to know you more.....(after a deep sigh) Are you listening....?"

This was my silent whisper one day during the novena to St. Joseph in our parish church when the priest paused for a while for the congregation to mention their requests. Though nothing supernatural happened that day, it was the



beginning of a journey - a journey to know about a man of few words yet many works. And I must admit that he didn't disappoint me. He indeed answered me through various sources that peeled away the layers and let me look a little more deeper into this just man who lived in Nazareth with the most beautiful lady and the Saviour of the world.

As time progressed, he was no more St.Joseph to me but Jose Paapan – well, that's what I call him.

During this phase of exploration, I came across a true story from a book titled - 'The Glories of St. Joseph.' I was wonderstruck to learn how powerful is my gentle Jose Paapan and here's the story:

A famous Danish surgeon had great devotion to St. Joseph. He always used the invocation "St Joseph, pray for us." He believed that the world is in need of this great wonder worker. One winter night, he boarded a train. He was alone in the dimly lit compartment with a large sum of money that was to be used to build a new clinic. He must have fallen asleep and dozed off due to the fatigue caused by the night travel and operations that he had performed. Suddenly, he woke up when a silent shadow bent over him and someone seized him by the throat. It was impossible to reach the alarm. He could not break free or call for help. There was a giant trying to force a gag into his mouth. The surgeon thought of St. Joseph as he had always been coming to his aid whenever he called upon him.

What happened then?

Well, something incredible was in store.

At that very moment, quite unexpectedly a fist from outside the window of the train struck his assailant a tremendous blow - Dishoom!!

He let go, his eyes turned towards the glass where there was a face, the same face as on the statue of St Joseph on his desk. The man who was crushing the surgeon with his knee cried out and vanished. As he awoke from a dream, the surgeon looked around. He then opened the drawer of his desk and saw that only the gag and

ACTIVITY

What would you do to get into a personal relationship with St. Joseph? (Word limit: 100)

OR

Draw a portrait based on the theme 'Me and St. Joseph' on an A-4 size paper.

Mail us your entries to lanternkidsroom@gmail.com along with your Name, Parish and Catechism Section. The best entries will be featured in the next issue of Kalyan Lantern.



a razor were beside him on the seat. He had made up his mind not to say a word but it happened that not long afterwards the man surrendered himself and was imprisoned.

Wow! What an incredible story. Isn't he amazing?

So, what makes him so special?

Here are some takeaways that this simple yet extraordinarily powerful saint offers us.

- 1) Holiness: The fragrant lilies held in his hand symbolises his purity. Just imagine the holiness of St.Joseph when Abba Father entrusted to him the care and protection of Mother Mary and Jesus Christ. Don't you think he had to be very very special?
- 2) Humility: The holy family in Nazareth had room for everyone except for pride. It was his humility that led him to become the doer of God's Will. He was always on the move right from waking up from the dream to journeying to Bethlehem, fleeing to Egypt and finally returning to Nazareth. His silence was not his weakness yet his greatest strength to trust in God alone. Due to his profound humility, he is given the title 'terror of demons'
- 3) Hiddenness: The hiddenness of his life

speaks to those overwhelmed by the pandemic who wonder if God is with them. He led a life of quiet service to God. A life of unrecorded, unseen acts of love was of infinite value. His life says to all of us. 'God sees.'

4) Hope: He was a man of hope. He practiced the most intimate union with God through prayer. When he learned about Mother Mary's pregnancy, he didn't give up altogether. He didn't discuss it with people here on earth but with his father in heaven. Whenever we face challenges in life, it would be absolutely a great idea to share it with God first rather than any other human being so that our hope remains intact in Him.

I sincerely hope and pray that these 4Hs be the pillars of our lives too. I came with a blank slate to St. Joseph but today as I look back, I see my Jose Paapan as the shadow of Abba Father.

Friends, let this year of St. Joseph help us all to grow in a deeper personal relationship with him. Come, let's befriend him. He is Awesome!

Suja Johny Vithayathil

St. Joseph's Church, Airoli



OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph". [1]

Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence.

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. *Mt* 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. *Mt* 1:18; *Lk* 1:27). He was a "just man" (*Mt* 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. *Lk* 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. *Mt* 1:20; 2:13.19.22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them" elsewhere (cf. *Lk* 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. *Lk* 2:8-20) and the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (*Mt* 1:21). As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or to a thing, as Adam did in the account in the Book of Genesis (cf. 2:19-20), was to establish a relationship.

In the Temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother (cf. *Lk* 2:22-35). To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-18). After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple. Of Nazareth it was said, "No prophet is to

rise" (cf. *Jn* 7:52) and indeed, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (cf. *Jn* 1:46). When, during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year-old Jesus, they anxiously sought him out and they found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law (cf. *Lk* 2:41-50).

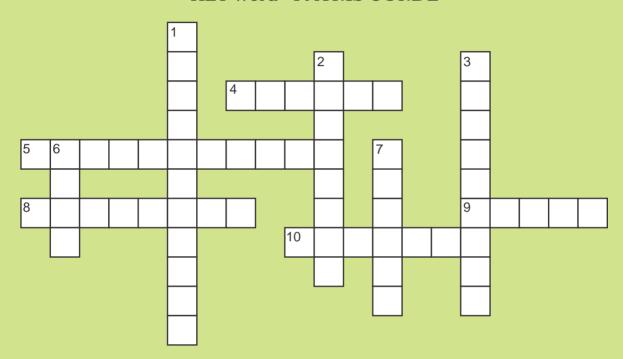
After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church",[2] Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers"[3] and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer".[4] Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death".[5]

Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as Patron of the Catholic Church by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt 12:34). My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "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".[6] 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. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

KEY word - PATRIS CORDE



Across

- 4. Prophesied about Jesus and his mother
- 5. Encyclical
- 8. No prophet is to rise here
- 9. Fxile
- 10. ..the birth of the in a stable.

Down

- 1. Teaching authority of Roman Catholic Church
- 2. Guardian of the .
- 3. Joseph's ancestral town
- 6. ..as did in the account in the Book of Genesis
- Venerable

KEY word - PATRIS CORDE (With a Father's Heart)

Solve the below crossword referring to this passage from the Pope's recent encyclical Patris Corde Correct answers to be sent along with Name and Parish to kalyaneparchyyouth25@gmail.com before 18 March 2021.

Names of the winners will be published here and also on our Instagram page.

You can also solve the puzzle online on https://crosswordlabs.com/view/keyword-patris-corde-3 and click a picture of the answer and send it across to us on the above email address



YEAR OF ST JOSEPH – FROM DECEMBER 8, 2020 TO DECEMBER 8, 2021 THEERTHAADANAM - EPARCHY OF KALYAN

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCHES RECOMMENDED TO FORANES FOR PILGRIMAGE

1.	Antop Hill Forane:	Chembur	9.	Navi Mumbai Forane:	Airoli
2.	Andheri Forane:	MC Road/Sahar	10.	Panvel Forane:	Rasayani
3.	Borivili Forane:	Naigaon/MC Road	11.	Powai Forane:	Powai
4.	Kalina Forane:	Jerimeri	12.	Pune Forane:	Akurdi
5.	Kalyan Forane:	Airoli/Wagle Estate	13.	Thane Forane:	Wagle Estate
6.	Malad Forane:	MC Road	14.	Vasai Forane:	Naigaon
7.	Miraj Forane:	Kodoli	15.	South Mumbai Forane:	Powai
8.	Nasik Forane:	Pavannagar			

NOTA BENE

- 1) All the above said Churches dedicated to St. Joseph shall be opened throughout the day, on 19th March and 1st May 2021 for the pilgrims, with the opportunity for confession and special blessings.
- 2) All the Churches dedicated to St. Joseph shall receive pilgrims throughout the year with prior appointments.
- 3) St. Joseph's Churches in Powai, Airoli and Akurdi (Pune), shall be opened to the pilgrims throughout the year from 9 am to 8 pm.
- 4) Inside the St. Joseph Churches, there shall be statues or photos installed. There shall be also a banner or photo of St. Joseph displayed outside the Church.
- 5) The Novena to St. Joseph and a Prayer to St. Joseph shall be kept in the churches for the pilgrims' use.
- 6) The requisites for obtaining Plenary Indulgence shall be displayed in the Churches.
- 7) A memento (card) can be made available to be given to the families visiting the Churches.
- 8) A Pilgrimage diary shall be kept in each Church for enrolling the names of the pilgrims.
- 9) Covid-19 protocol is to be respected as long as there are restrictions.

The list of St. Joseph Churches in the Eparchy of Kalyan

Sr.	Place	Contact Person	Mobile No.	Holy Qurbana Timings
1.	Naigaon	Fr. SintoEnanickal	7306838177	Friday 7:30 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m.
2.	MC Road	Fr. Sushil MCBS	9158762190	Weekays 6:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday 7.30 p.m. Sunday 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 6.00 p.m.
3.	Sahar	Mr. Babu	9930140086	
4.	Jerimeri	Mr. Xavier	9920246446	Weekdays 7:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m.
5.	Chembur	Mrs. Beena	7666085505	Weekdays 7:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m.
6.	Powai	Mr. Austin	9819246575	Weedays 6:45 a.m., 6.30 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
7.	Wagle Estate	Mr. Francis	8369938764	Weekdays 7:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
8.	Airoli	Mr. Sumesh	9152383236	Weekdays 7:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
9.	Rasayani	Mr. Joy Kurian	9850138656	Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Sunday 10:30 a.m.
10.	Akurdi	Mr. Roy Thomas	9970007052	Weekdays 6:30 p.m. (except Friday) Sunday 7:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
11.	Pawan Nagar	Ms. Thesna Shaji	7498264538	Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kadankavil Mother of Victory Forane Church, Tikujiniwadi



Question:

What are the three forms of honour due to those who are holy, as ascertained by the Catholic Church?



Answer:

1. Dulia:

The reverence, honor or recognition accorded to saints and angels, which is also known as veneration. These are those that died as martyrs instead of denying God in the face of turmoil; or those that worked great miracles as their friendship with God meant that he granted their prayers for healing or restoration; OR they simply, as Therese of Lisieux, lived holiness in their own "little way".

2. Hyperdulia:

It is essentially a heightened degree of dulia provided only to the Blessed Virgin. This is, to put it simply, lots and lots of dulia. This is the very special honor we accord to Mary, the Mother of God.

3. Latria:

It is sacrificial in character, and may be offered only to God. This is deemed as true worship, and is given only to God. "In more technical terms used by the Tradition to draw this important distinction, devotion to Mary belongs to the veneration of dulia, or the homage and honor owed to the saints, both angelic and human in heaven, and not to latria, or the adoration and worship that can be given only to the Triune God and the Son incarnate. Because of her unique relationship to Christ in salvation history, however, the special degree of devotion due to Mary has traditionally been called hyperdulia. While latria is owed to her Son by reason of unity of his divine and human natures in the Person of the Word made flesh, hyperdulia is due to Mary as truly his Mother." [Summa Theologica by St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church]

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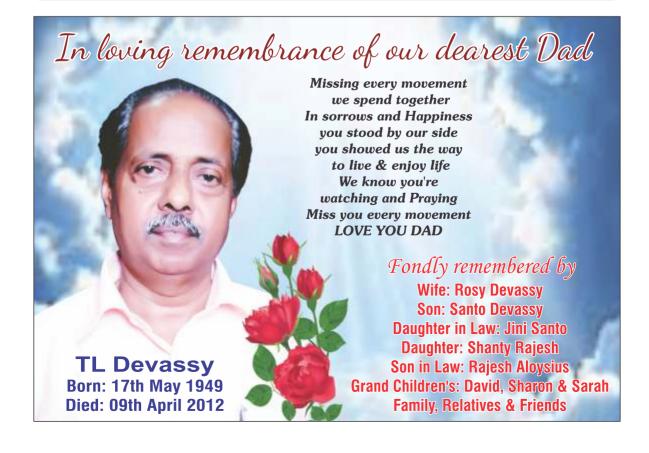
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THANKSGIVING TO ST. JUDE

Shaju Raphel — Goregaon (E) Shaju Raphel — Goregaon (E) Steffy Sinto Pulicken — Dubai

Alphonsa Sunny — Kalyan (W) Sinto Sunny — Abu-Dhabi Mrs. Priya Joseph — Bhayandar





"This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24.







ONLINE FAMILY RENEWAL RETREAT

His Holiness Pope Francis declared this year as the year of St. Joseph. On this occasion, Diocese of Kalyan is organising an online family renewal retreat on 12th, 13th and 14th of March 2021. Let us seek Gods healing grace and attain a spiritual renewal in our family by attending this retreat in a fruitful manner and also to pray to St. Joseph to protect our families from all spiritual dangers.

Retreat led by Dr. Jacob Koipally (Vice-President St. John Paul II Institute, Thuruthy)



MCC

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