

# Theme of the Week - St Joseph the worker

We start our theme of the week with our school Patron Saint, St Joseph, as we celebrate our Feast day this Wednesday. St Joseph appears in the Gospels of St Matthew, Luke and John but does not say anything in each. And in a way, I think this is quite telling (pardon the pun) of who St Joseph was. A man who just got on with things with the minimum of fuss without the need for acknowledgment or reward. A man who did things because they were the right things to do; a man whose love of his wife and Jesus were at the forefront in all he did. With his faith and love for others being at the centre of all he did, it is with this connection that we can link to Jesus' teaching in Sunday's Gospel. Jesus compares himself to a vine and us to its branches. He tells us how we need to stay connected (through faith and love) to the vine in order to bear fruit.

Before we look more closely at the Gospel of John, we should turn to the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Saul (who goes on to become St Paul) comes to Jerusalem to join the disciples but at the time the disciples were still very much on the defensive and were afraid of Saul and did not want to know him. But soon through the good interventions of Barnabas, they allowed him to come and go amongst them preaching. Here is a picture of the young church finding its way. The community soon opened to Paul and when he later got into trouble, they supported him and moved him out of harm's way to Tarsus. The Gospel from John develops the theme of the believing community. A vine puts out many branches, and all these different branches exist only in their connection to the vine. They share the same source of life. That makes them close relatives. The vineyard was one of the ancient images of the people of Israel, God's chosen people and God is the vine-dresser. In John's Gospel the term 'I am' has a special significance. When Moses encountered God on Mt Sinai, God revealed himself as 'I am'. Jesus reveals himself as the Son of God in the use of this term and tells something of his mission: I am the living water, I am the good shepherd, I am the way, the truth and the life, I am the light of the world, I am the bread of life.

When we come together to celebrate our Feast Day, we are this believing community! We are all connected to one another, from those who attended St Joseph's when it first opened in 1957 to those who have attended since and are here this day, to those who will attend in the future, we can all proudly say we are part of St Joseph's Catholic High School. We are connected through listening to the Word of God, coming together to support one another and those who are in need of our support in the wider community. We come together and build upon the existing relationships we have with others from primary school and make new friendships and relationships for the future in our time here. We learn and live out our school Mission of '*Unlocking Belief in All*' firstly in deepening our relationship with God through prayer and love and showing this to others and living out our school virtues of: *Intentional and Prophetic, Compassionate and Loving, Grateful & Generous, Faith-filled and Hopeful, Learned and Wise, Attentive and Discerning, Eloquent and Truthful, Curious and Active.* But by also believing in our talents, skills and strengths and believing we can go on to become whatever we want to be!

We may well find ourselves being a little bit like the disciples when they first encountered Saul, weary and unsure. I think we can probably all honestly say we were like that when we first joined St Joseph's, but through seeing Christ in the presence of each other we too can not only be like the disciples but also be like St Joseph, a loving and compassionate man who does what is right, because it is the right thing to do. Happy St Joseph Day

# St Joseph the Worker

Weekly Reflections  
28<sup>th</sup> April 2024



## A reading from the Gospel of St John (15:1-8)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

## Prayer for the Week

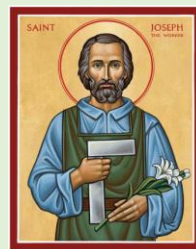
Dearest Lord

When our work seems to bear no fruit, when our efforts go unrewarded, when our hopes remain unrealised, teach us that your purpose will ultimately be fulfilled.

Christ is risen.

Amen

**Saint of the week** - St Joseph the worker - 1<sup>st</sup> May



The husband of Mary and Jesus' foster-father, Joseph appears in the Gospels of St Matthew, Luke and John. The divine pregnancy of his betrothed was revealed in an angelic vision, and he humbly accepted his future role. After Mary gave birth, he was warned by an angel to flee, he took his wife and son to Egypt. When they returned he was a caring and nurturing father, Joseph raised Jesus and trained Him as a carpenter.

Joseph was:

**Loving and  
Compassionate**

### Day 1

What qualities do you think St Joseph showed in the Gospels?

Why do you think we should illustrate these qualities in all we do?

### Day 2

Why do you think the disciples were initially afraid of Saul? (The new person to their group)  
In the gospel 'I am' is given importance, why do you think Jesus states 'I am' when referring to His Mission?

### Day 3

How can you try to do the right thing for one another today to truly show not only Christ in one another but to be examples of St Joseph?