

## A PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

*“In honour of Saint Joseph their Patriarch, they will be one in the service of each other, and one in the service of the neighbour without distinction for whom they will try to have CORDIAL CHARITY as Saint Joseph had for his spouse and for the Saviour Jesus” (Rèlements)*



*Painting: Joannie Cassidy, CSI used with permission*

### Opening Prayer

All embracing God, create in us an ever unfolding openness to follow where you lead. May we see you revealed in the faces of those around us and in the challenges of daily life, and respond from the depths of our being in the manner of our patron, St. Joseph. Help us to cast off all that binds us; free us to go where we have never gone before. Journey with us in the birthing of new dreams, new visions and new hopes. Strengthen us in love for all that is yet to be. Amen.

**Opening Song: “Joseph the Carpenter” Richard Cootes (contemporary and available on YouTube used with the permission of Richard Cootes) or a Hymn/Song of your choice.**

### Reading 1: Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good and what does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

### A moment of contemplative reflection

**Reading 2: (Excerpts from the Inaugural Homily of Pope Francis on the Feast of St. Joseph, 2013)**

“In the Gospel we hear that ‘Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife’ (Mt 1:24). These words already point to the mission which God entrusts to



Joseph: he is to be the *custos*, the protector. The vocation of being a 'protector', however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another ... it means building sincere

friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protector's of God's gifts!

**You are invited now to take an appropriate time of contemplative reflection to consider the following questions and then, if you are praying with others, to share some of your thoughts and insights:**

- If we are to understand St. Joseph as protector and a model for us how does his life speak to the contemporary world?
- How do we find echoes of these words in the spirituality and charism that we share in its various and unfolding expressions?
- Many characteristics are ascribed to St. Joseph: How might I/we identify with these attributes for a new time? How do I understand my/our call in light of these attributes today?
  - "Dream-Catcher"
  - Cooperator with the Holy Spirit
  - Man of silence – the quintessential 'contemplative in action'
  - Refugee – one who lets go of much that is cherished and journeys into the unknown for love of others
  - Artisan – builder – creative worker
  - Companion of the sick and dying



### **Reading 3: (Some further words from the inaugural homily of Pope Francis)**

The society of the time in which Joseph lived "is not very different from ours. Today, too, there is a centre and a periphery. The Church knows she is called to proclaim the good news from the periphery. Joseph, who is the carpenter from Nazareth and who trusts in God's plans for his young fiancée and for himself, reminds us to keep our eyes on what the world generally ignores.

Today, Joseph teaches us this: 'Do not look so much at the things the world praises, look to the corners, look in the shadows, look at the peripheries, at what the world does not want.' He reminds each of us to consider important what others discard. In this sense he is truly a master of the essential: he reminds us that what truly matters does not attract our attention, but requires patient discernment to be discovered and appreciated. To discover what matters. Let us ask Joseph to intercede so that the whole Church may recover this insight, this ability to discern, this capacity to evaluate what is essential."

### **Some Prayers of Intercession ("Daily Prayer: Daily Bread", Congregation of Joseph – adapted)**

We praise God for the gift of Joseph, our patron.

Faithful Joseph, teach us to listen and not be afraid,

**to trust boldly in God's promises to us.**

Loving Joseph, teach us to love and not to count the cost,

**and to reach out to others with gentleness and courage.**

Protector Joseph, teach us to care for one another,

**to care for and to protect the dignity of the dear neighbour and the integrity of creation.**

Dreamer Joseph, teach us to dream a world where all are neighbours,

**A vision in accordance with God's Design and illumined by God's light.**

Teacher Joseph, teach us to keep the Word of God close to our hearts

**and to proclaim it in word and in life.**

Provider Joseph, teach us to be gentle with our power

**and strong in tenderness.**

Parent Joseph, teach us to be for the young, a living lesson of goodness and truth,

**a blessing of hope for all generations to come.**

And for what else and for whom do we pray at this time of celebration? .....

In the Spirit of Jesus, who learned to pray from Mary and Joseph, we pray. Our Father ...

### **Closing Prayer (Chris Haw – adapted)**

St. Joseph:

Help us to become affectionate co-creators with God.

Guide our hands with a spirit of energetic delight;

pull our feet from lethargy

and push them into swiftness and lightness of being,

inspire us toward full participation,

through creativity and right relationship

in the creative work of supporting the land, our neighbourhoods,

countries and the world. Amen.

**Closing Song "Joseph's Song" – Amos Raber (contemporary) available on You Tube or a song of your choice that is especially meaningful to your communities.**