

Chosen by the Father

The Scriptures contain not one word spoken by St Joseph, yet his response to God became a powerful homily in its own right. He was the one chosen by the Father to be the earthly exemplar of fatherhood as guardian of the saviour. In a dream he heard the Angel's voice of God, and so followed the instruction to name the messiah, 'Jesus'. How often did St Joseph stare in contemplation of the Messiah?

A Royal Prayer

Joseph himself was part of the royal line of David. He should have been king, yet his home was not a palace, nor his chair a throne – he wore the clothes of a humble carpenter, yet in his midst was the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the one promised since the fall of humanity. Let us turn to the ancient novena prayer and call upon St Joseph to assist us in our response to God:

O St Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the Loving of Fathers.

O St Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach you while He reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen. ■

Summary

The call to guardianship is extended to the whole Church.

John Paul II's Exhortation outlined the person and mission of St Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church.

St Joseph was chosen by the Father to be the earthly exemplar of fatherhood as guardian of the saviour.

Question

How often did St Joseph stare in contemplation at the Messiah?

Prayer

Lord, may I live always in your presence, like St Joseph did.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Saints; Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A; 18 Dec 2022

"I wish I could persuade everyone to be devoted to St Joseph, for I have great experience of the blessings which he can obtain from God."

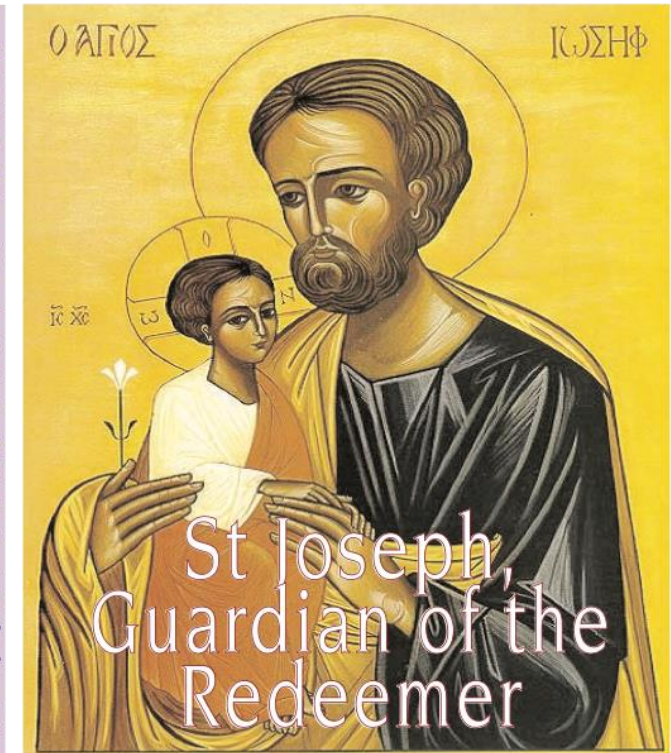
(– St Teresa of Avila, doctor of the Church)

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The "Apostolic Exhortation" of Pope John-Paul II on St Joseph as 'Guardian of the Redeemer' was shared with the world on the Solemnity of the Assumption, 1989.

This Exhortation outlined the person and mission of St Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church.

In it, the Pope drew out the vocation of St Joseph as the loving guardian of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin. In doing so, John Paul II reminded us that this call to guardianship is extended to the entire Mystical Body of Christ, The People of God – The Church.



Like the image of the mantle of Mary guarding all Christians, we are drawn under the protective cloak of St Joseph. In 2021, during the year dedicated to St Joseph, Pope Francis added 7 new citations to the litany of St Joseph; these included the titles: 'Guardian of the Redeemer', 'Guide in Time of Trouble' and 'Protector of the Afflicted'.

All the citations in this litany draw out profound aspects of the life and character of St Joseph: most just, chaste, prudent, brave, obedient and loyal. However, one citation stands out in particular, 'Terror of Demons'. Even the demons tremble before the one who followed the will of God in all aspects of his life; even in his sleep.

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes
(Glasnevin, Iona Rd, Corpus Christi, Ballymun Rd & Ballygall)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689

Sacristy/Parish Office: Phone 01 8369291 (Monday to Friday 9.30pm to 1.00pm)

Mass Intentions Monday 19th to Sunday 25th December.				
Monday	7.25	Ben Whelan	10.00	Funeral Mass Patrick Brady
Tuesday	7.25	Eileen & Nora Ryan	10.00	Aileen Traynor
Wednesday	7.25	Thomas & Margaret Ryan & daughters, Muriel & Mary	10.00	Jack Quirke & Michael Doyle
	7.30pm	Penance service (Led by the Franciscan Fathers)		
Thursday	7.25	Deceased Members of the Doyle, Shortt & Griffey Families.	10.00	Thanksgiving Mass
Friday	7.25	Breda McQuaid	10.00	Joan O'Sullivan.
Saturday Christmas Eve	10.00	James Bassett	Confessions Available 10.30am to 12.00pm 2.00 to 3.00pm	
	6.30 pm	Christmas Mass Bouquets & The People of the Parish.		
	8.30 pm			
Sunday Christmas Day	10.00	Christmas Mass Bouquets and The People of the Parish.		
	11.30			

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Patrick Brady, Funeral mass on Monday at 10.00am.

Events this week

Sacred Heart Boys National School Carol Service on Tuesday 20th at 1.00pm

Reconciliation Service Wednesday 21st Dec @ 7,30pm with Franciscan Fathers

Carols With The Nuns

Christmas carols will be sung on **Monday, December 19**, at 8pm in the Monastery of St Alphonsus. Music by the Dublin Diocesan Music Group. Directed by Fr Pat O'Donoghue.

Christmas Mass Cards are now available in the shop. There are many other Christmas gift ideas available. E.G. A copy of all the Sunday Mass readings for 2023. A perfect idea for a relative unable to come to Mass.

St Mary's Pro-Cathedral

There will be a Carol Service in the Pro-Cathedral at 3.30 p.m. this Sunday, December 18.

Continuum Youth Choir Concert

Continuum Youth Choir's Christmas Concert takes place at DCU All Hallows Campus next Tuesday, December 20, at 8pm. [Tickets at Eventbrite](#)

Crosscare Christmas Food Poverty Appeal

This Christmas, Crosscare is asking for help for the Food Poverty Service, where it supports families who find it hard to provide nutritious food. Sadly, almost 800 families and individuals, including 1,000 children, have needed help from the Service this year and demand is likely to increase in the coming months. Crosscare ensures they have a good supply of food while at the same time looking at all the issues that may have brought them into food poverty.

If you can, you may donate online at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011 or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, Dublin D07 Y768.

Sacristan Position

In the build up to Christmas many people are busy with activities pulling them in different directions. Yet we thought it would be a good time to put it out to the public about the position of Sacristan in Ballygall church. Our thanks to our volunteers who have filled the post for over the past year so well and have brought their own gifts into service in the church.



Our Mother of Divine Grace church has a vacancy for a sacristan.

The role is to provide a high level of support to the priests and secretary in the general running of the parish. This role is offered initially on a one-year, fixed-term, part-time basis at 20 hours per week approx.. **including** weekends.

The duties will involve the preparation of the church for all liturgical services, opening and closing the church at agreed times; ordering altar and cleaning products and ensuring the church is maintained to a high standard.

The successful candidate should be reliable and have a flexible approach, be able to work well independently as well as within a team with strong interpersonal skills and experience of dealing with the public. We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria and are interested in playing an active part in the Parish. Closing date for applications is Friday 30th December 2022. See poster/parish website for full notice.

Ballygall Abroad (Family members away for Christmas)

Please leave in names (& country) before Thursday Morning to be called out.