

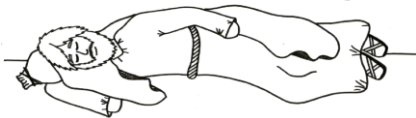
On Friday 19th March we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, husband of Mary and stepfather to Jesus. On this wonderful feast day, we invite our children to reflect on St Joseph's life and ask him to guide and inspire us to grow closer to God.

Pope Francis has declared this year, the Year of St. Joseph. He encourages us to ask St Joseph to pray for us. Pope Francis also wants us to see that during the pandemic there are many ordinary people working very hard to keep us safe and well – people like nurses, doctors, shop workers, farmers and staff in schools.

Often, we know very little about all these people. We don't know their names or what interests they have. Pope Francis says that they are like St Joseph, as we know very little about him too. St Joseph did his ordinary daily chores quietly and unnoticed, and courageously cared for Mary and Jesus in times of trouble. St Joseph reminds us that those unknown people, who are working hard to keep us safe and well, are playing an important role in bringing God's love to the world, just as he did. This week we will think about the qualities St Joseph had, how he coped with the many challenges he faced, and we will ask him to help us in our own lives.



"So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!"
-Pope Francis



A few years ago, while visiting the Philippines, Pope Francis wove his love for St Joseph into an address on prayer and family. Specifically, he spoke about a statue he has on his desk of the 'Sleeping St. Joseph'. From the Gospels, we know that St Joseph listened to God in his dreams and then rose to act on His will. Pope Francis shared with his audience that he asks St. Joseph to pray for his intentions by writing them down and slipping the paper under the statue of St. Joseph.

"I have a great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church!" How comforting to think of St. Joseph caring for the Church, for us and our concerns, whilst resting in God. We have recently purchased a statue of 'Sleeping St Joseph'.

On Friday 19th we will be holding our special whole school celebration of St Joseph by taking part in lots of wonderful activities to honour this wonderful Saint. Year 4 will be in church to lead our special Mass for St Joseph and, whilst places are limited, parents are invited to come to join us in church. **The children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for £1. This money will go towards our chosen Lenten Charity.**

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Murphy
RE Leader

