

Saint Joseph



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Who Was Saint Joseph?

Saint Joseph was the husband of the Virgin Mary and the foster father of Jesus.

Joseph was chosen by God as a trustworthy guardian and protector of Mary and Jesus.

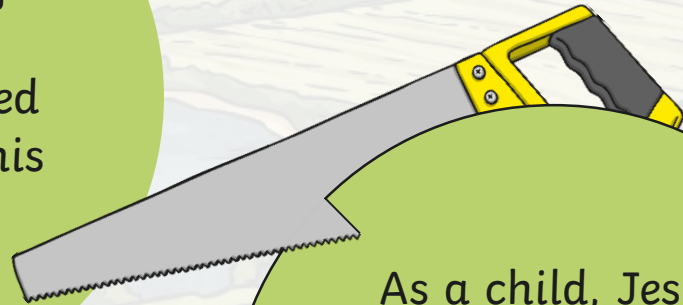


Who Was Saint Joseph?

Joseph
was a
carpenter.

He spent his life
working very
hard. He wanted
to provide for his
family.

As a child, Jesus
spent a lot of time
with Joseph in his
workshop. Joseph
taught Jesus all
about carpentry.



St. Joseph's Day

The feast of Saint Joseph is celebrated on the 19th March every year.

St. Joseph's Day always falls during Lent.



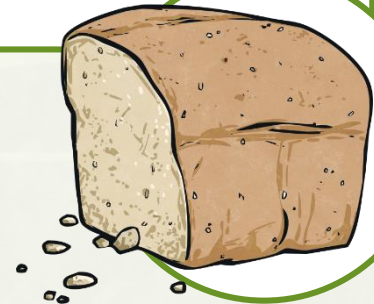
The feast of Saint Joseph is celebrated in countries all around the world, including Italy, Malta and Spain.

St. Joseph's Day around the World

Different traditions are practised in different countries on the feast of Saint Joseph.

Italy

Special masses are held in Italy on St. Joseph's Day. Lots of items are placed on the altar including flowers, limes, candles, wine, fava beans, cakes, breads, cookies, meatless dishes and zeppole (Italian doughnuts). People bring foods containing bread crumbs to represent saw dust.



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Malta

Three main events occur on St. Joseph's Day in Malta:

- special masses are held;
- musical bands take to the streets in a colourful procession, with fireworks at night;
- the main event of the day takes place in the evening. The statue of Saint Joseph is carried into the church of Saint Mary of Jesus.

St. Joseph's Day around the World

Different traditions are practised in different countries on the feast of Saint Joseph.

An illustration of a man with a beard and a red shirt kneeling on one knee, embracing a young boy in a white shirt and blue shorts. They are positioned in front of a large globe showing the Americas. The man is looking down at the boy with a gentle expression.

Spain

In Spain, St. Joseph's Day is their version Father's Day.

It is referred to as **El Dia del Padre**.

The Spanish feel that Saint Joseph is a good example of what a father figure should be like.

It is traditional for children to cook for their fathers on this day.

They cook meatless dishes as the day falls during Lent.

Special mass services are also held to mark the special day.

Did You Know?

There are no words spoken by Joseph recorded in the bible. However, references made about him in the bible prove he showed a deep faith and great commitment to God.

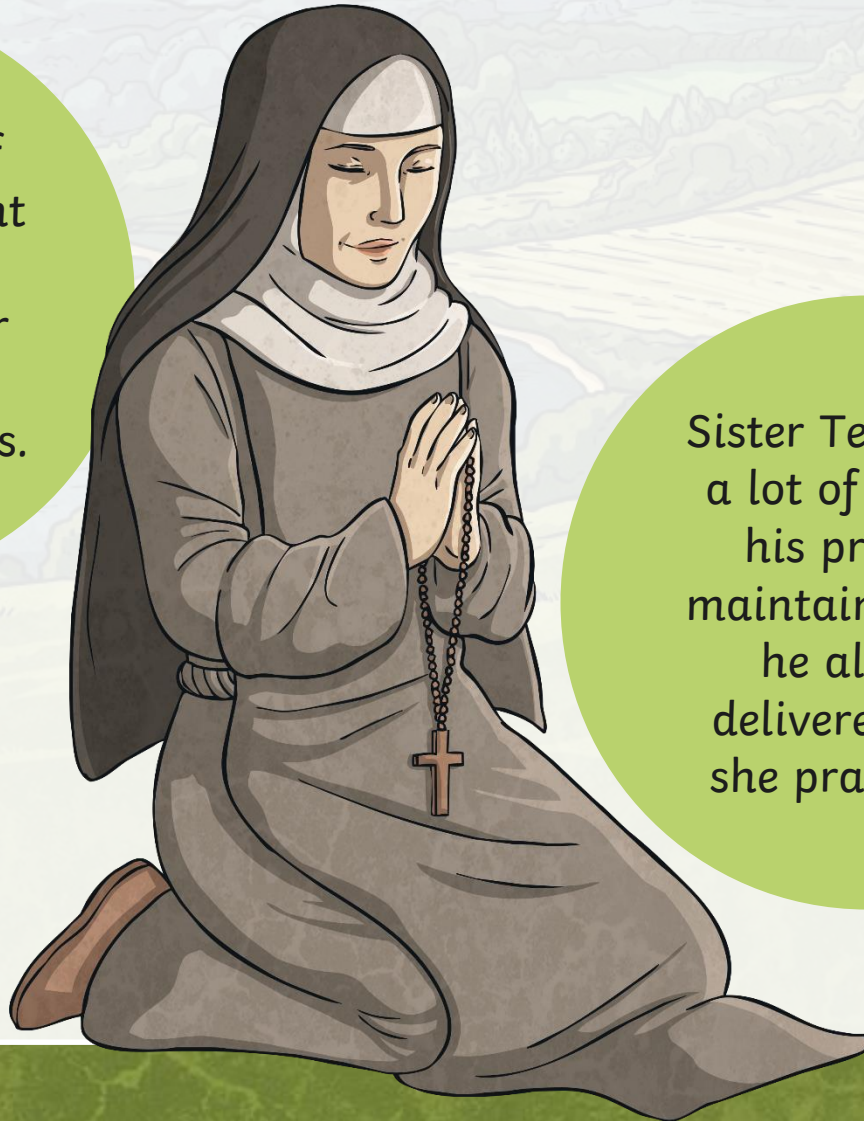
Saint Joseph is the patron saint of many countries including Mexico, Canada and Belgium.

Saint Joseph is the patron of many things including the Universal Church, a happy death, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, craftsmen, engineers, and workers.



Saint Joseph the Protector

Saint Teresa of Avila chose Saint Joseph as the protector of her order of the Carmelite Sisters.



Sister Teresa had a lot of trust in his prayers, maintaining that he always delivered what she prayed for.



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