**FEAST OF ST JOSEPH – MONDAY 19TH MARCH**

Show picture on PowerPoint - Who is this a picture of?

Explain that today we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph. Joseph was a carpenter, a good and honest man, who married Mary and cared for her and baby Jesus. Even though at times he didn’t understand God’s ways, he was still faithful and trusting. We can learn from Joseph to be the same.

Read the following Gospel Matthew 1:18, 20 and 21

Now the birth of Jesus Christ[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1%3A18-21&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23163a)] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1%3A18-21&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23163b)] to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

20But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***HAND OUT PRAYERS TO SOME CHILDREN IN ADVANCE – I have put them in a separate document to make this easier.***

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

Mrs Bray: Gracious God, we bring our prayers before you knowing that you will

always listen to them.

Reader: Joseph was a person of great love. Loving God, help us to love others with hearts full of compassion and kindness. Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Joseph was a person of strength. Loving God, help us to be strong in our

faith willing to live as you want us to. Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Joseph was a person who protected Mary and Jesus. Loving God, help us

to know that when we are in trouble we can always turn to you. Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Joseph was a person who trusted God. Loving God, help us to trust you

even when we are lost and unsure. Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Joseph was a person of great faith. Loving God, help us to remember that you are with us always, guiding us and showing us the way. Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Mrs Bray: God of love, we offer up our prayers to you in faith, hope and love.

All: Amen.

Mrs Bray: Loving God, we rejoice in the person of Joseph and all that his life teaches us. Help us to be faithful and loving people just like Joseph, willing to trust you and to serve you with loving care. We ask this prayer through Jesus,

your son. Let us go and bring love to the world.

All: Thanks be to God.

Finish with this song ask the children to think about what they can do this week to be like St Joseph.

I was not his Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljWtx9yHQis>