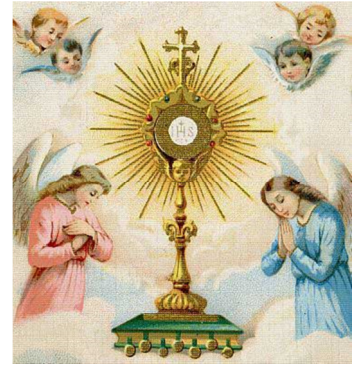


**Diocesan Commission
for Liturgy, Vasai**

**First Friday
of the Month**

HOLY HOUR

5th March 2021



Exposition (*As the Blessed Sacrament is being exposed*)

Hymn : O Sacrament most holy..... (3)

(Silence 1 minute)

Today we will meditate on the person of St Joseph whose Solemnity the Church would be celebrating on 19th of this month. St Joseph was proclaimed the Patron Saint of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX on 8th December 1870.

On the 150th Anniversary, Pope Francis proclaimed him the Patron of the Universal Church on 8th December 2020 and the year 8/12/2020 to 8/12/2021 to be celebrated as the year of St Joseph.

(Silence – 5 minutes)

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew : 1 : 16,18-21,24

(Silence – 2 minutes)

Reflection by Pope Francis

With a father's heart that is how Joseph loved Jesus whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph". The greatness of St Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way he placed himself in the words of St John Chrysostom, "at the service of the entire plan of salvation". St Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose." He devoted himself completely to the Holy family in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home". Thanks to his role in salvation history, St Joseph has always been venerated as a father by Christian people. This is shown by countless churches dedicated to him worldwide,

the numerous religious institutes, Confraternities and ecclesial groups inspired by his spirituality and bearing his name, and the many traditional expressions of piety in his honour. Innumerable holy men and women were passionately devoted to him.

(Silence - 5 minutes)

Hymn : Softly and tenderly (360)

(Silence - 2 minutes)

St Joseph possessed seven qualities of an ideal father which one should emulate.

1. A beloved father

Among the persons passionately devoted to St. Joseph was Teresa of Avila, who chose him as her advocate and intercessor, had frequent recourse to him and received whatever graces she asked of him. Encouraged by her own experience, Teresa persuaded others to cultivate devotion to Joseph.

2. A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily, “in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour” (Ok, 2, 52)

3. An obedient father

As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams which in the Bible and among all ancient people, were considered a way for Him to make His will known.

4. An accepting father

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. The nobility of Joseph's heart is such that what he learned from the law he made dependent on charity. He was a respectful and sensitive man.

5. A creatively courageous father

Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true “miracle” by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage.

6. A working father

St Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is fruit of one's own labor.

7. A father in the shadows

In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way.

(Silence 5 minutes)

Now let us present our petitions to our Lord.

Our response shall be – St. Joseph intercede for us.

1. For the Universal Church – we pray for our Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and the religious that they may always enjoy good health of mind body and spirit and continue to be true fathers to the laity.
For this we pray to the Lord
2. For Vocations – We pray that St Joseph may inspire the young generation to heed his Son's call to be shepherds in the Church.
For this we pray to the Lord
3. For the sick and ailing - May St Joseph intercede with his son for healing and comfort so that they may experience the love of the Lord.
For this we pray to the Lord
4. For complete eradication of the virus – We pray that the scourge of the virus Covid – 19 and the variants may diminish and be eradicated from the world.
5. We pray for our personal and local needs.
Pause
For this we pray to the Lord.

Prayer to St Joseph,

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church, pray for us.

Concluding hymn : All over the world (26)