



St Francis of Assisi Parish



REFLECTION

SAINT JOSEPH

Shalom

A father, the head of a human household, has a crucial role to play and a great responsibility to exercise in the family, not only materially and physically, but spiritually. This is not an outdated biblical cliché but a biological, sociological and metaphysical reality that we often fail to recognise in these modern times. The example of a father in a family can leave an indelible imprint on the character of his children.

Pope Francis, in his great wisdom, in his recent declaration of a Year of Joseph 2021, has initiated a revival of the fatherhood position, not only in a family, but in the big faith family of the Universal Church. Time is up now for the Church to come under the special protection and guidance of St. Joseph, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic which has devastated the lives of millions and St. Joseph, with his great intercessory power, will do the needful for the recovery of the life in the Church. He is already the Patron of the Universal Church and a father figure in the Church and it is his responsibility now to take care of the Church, the universal family of believers. Now that a Year has been set apart to be dedicated to him, we could approach him during the whole year with all our needs and he will do what is necessary.

During this Year of St. Joseph, all Christian families should acknowledge him as a leader in our families by making him present in our families by our prayers to him. A daily prayer for his protection and guidance could become a normal spiritual activity in our families. Children could be taught to call him “dad” and speak to him as children. He in his turn will treat children in our families as equal to his own Son, Jesus, whom he took care of while he was growing from his childhood to adulthood. Regarding both physical and spiritual health of the family, he will act like a medicine man to do all that is necessary to restore health. St. Joseph is a miracle worker in a silent way and if necessary he will perform miraculous healings to those who are ill and suffering. The coming months of the New Year will be a period of recovery from viruses and a time to enjoy physical and spiritual health. Let us surrender ourselves to his paternal care and constantly pray that he may do wonders for us,

His great intercession will make wonders to happen. St. Joseph, pray for us.

Praise God

Fr Joseph Rathnaraj
Parish Priest

1 January 2021