

and to guard and defend Him, come to our assistance and intercede with Him to look favourably on our present petition.

(State your request here...) Amen.

Day Nine

O good St Joseph, help us to be like you, gentle to those whose weakness leans on us; help us to give to those who seek our aid, succour that they may journey unafraid.

Give us your faith, that we may see the right shining above the victories of might.

Give us your hope that we may stand secure, untouched by doubting, steadfast to endure.

Give us your love that as the years increase an understanding heart may bring us peace.

Give us your purity that the hour of death finds us untouched by evil's breath.

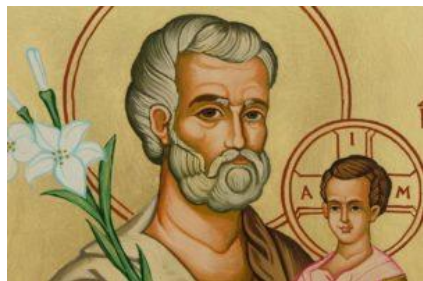
Give us your love of labour that we shirk no lot in life that calls us for honest work.

Give us your love of poverty so that we live contented, let wealth come or go.

Give us your courage that we may be strong; give us your meekness to confess our sins.

Give us your patience that we may possess the kingdom of our souls without distress.

Help us, dear Saint, to live that when life ends, we pass with you to Jesus and His friends.



O Glorious St Joseph, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions. Amen.

Joseph as the Protector

Who better to protect us than the former guardian of the Child Jesus?

While God is always with us and stands by us as our ultimate protector, he also allows the saints and angels a unique role as intercessors, who can call upon his power to protect us in our time of need.

One of the most well-known and powerful protectors is St Joseph, who was the guardian of Jesus when he was a child. He kept him safe from harm as long as he could, until he died a happy death in Jesus' arms.

This protection is then extended to the Church, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, the Church. In our parish the statue of St Joseph, which stands on the Sanctuary, unusually has him symbolically holding The Church.

How does Joseph respond to this calling to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church? By being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans and not simply to his own. Discreetly, humbly, and silently, but with an unflinching presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. Let us protect with love all that God has given us! St Joseph, pray for us.

Father, you entrusted our Saviour to the care of Saint Joseph. By the help of his prayers may your Church continue to serve its Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Novena to St Joseph

Pray this Novena for nine consecutive days, from 10th to 18th March for your request.

Trust that the outcome is truly what is best for you in accordance with the will of God.

O Glorious St Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you do we raise our hearts and hands, to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special favour we now implore.

O guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel filled with confidence that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

O Glorious St Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions. *(Repeat 7 times)*

Let us pray:

O Glorious St Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for us a pure, humble, and charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will.

Be our guide, father and model through life, that we may merit to die as you did, in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Day One

O great St Joseph, with feelings of unlimited confidence, we beg you to bless this novena that we begin in your honour.

“You are never invoked in vain” says the seraphic St Theresa of Jesus.

Be you then to me what you have been to that spouse of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and graciously hear me as you did her. Amen.

Day Two

O blessed St Joseph, tender-hearted father, faithful guardian of Jesus, chaste spouse of the Mother of God, we pray and beseech you to offer to God the Father, His divine son, bathed in blood on the Cross for sinners, and through the thrice holy name of Jesus obtain for us of the eternal Father the favour for which we implore your intercession. (*State your request here...*)

Amid the splendours of eternity, forget not the sorrows of those who pray, those who weep; stay the almighty arm which smites us, that by your prayers and those of your most holy spouse, the Heart of Jesus may be moved to pity and to pardon. Amen.

Day Three

Blessed St Joseph, enkindle in our cold hearts a spark of your charity.

May God be always the first and only object of our affections.

Keep our souls always in sanctifying grace and, if we should be so unhappy as to lose

it, give us the strength to recover it immediately by a sincere repentance.

Help us to such a love of our God as will always keep us united to Him. Amen.

O glorious St Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ and for the glory of His name, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions. (*State your request here...*)

Day Four

St Joseph, pride of Heaven, unfailing hope for our lives, and support of those on earth, graciously accept our prayer of praise.

You were appointed spouse of the chaste Virgin by the Creator of the world.

He willed that you be called “father” of the Word and serve as agent of our salvation.

May the triune God who bestowed upon your heavenly honours, be praised forever.

And may He grant us through your merits the joy of a blessed life and a favourable answer to our petition.

(*State your request here...*) Amen.

Day Five

O holy St Joseph, what a lesson your life is for us, ever so eager to appear so anxious to display before the eyes of men the graces that we owe entirely to the liberality of God.

In addition to the special favour for which we plead in this novena.

(*State your request here...*)

grant that we may attribute to God the glory of all things, that we may love the humble and hidden life, that we may not desire any other position than the one given us by

Providence and that we may always be a docile instrument in the hands of God. Amen.

Day Six

O glorious St Joseph, appointed by the Eternal Father as the guardian and protector of the life of Jesus Christ, the comfort and support of His Holy Mother, and the instrument in His great design for the redemption of mankind; you who had the happiness of living with Jesus and Mary, and of dying in their arms, be moved with confidence we place in you, and procure for us from the Almighty, the particular favour which we humbly ask through your intercession. (*State your request here...*) Amen.

Day Seven

O faithful and prudent St Joseph, watch over our weakness and our inexperience; obtain for us that prudence which reminds us of our end, which directs our paths and which protects us from every danger.

Pray for us, then, O great Saint, and by your love for Jesus and Mary, and by their love for you, obtain for us the favour we ask in this novena. (*State your request here...*) Amen.

Day Eight

O blessed Joseph, to whom it was given not only to see and to hear that God whom many kings longed to see and saw not; to hear and heard not; but also to carry Him in your arms, to embrace Him, to clothe Him,