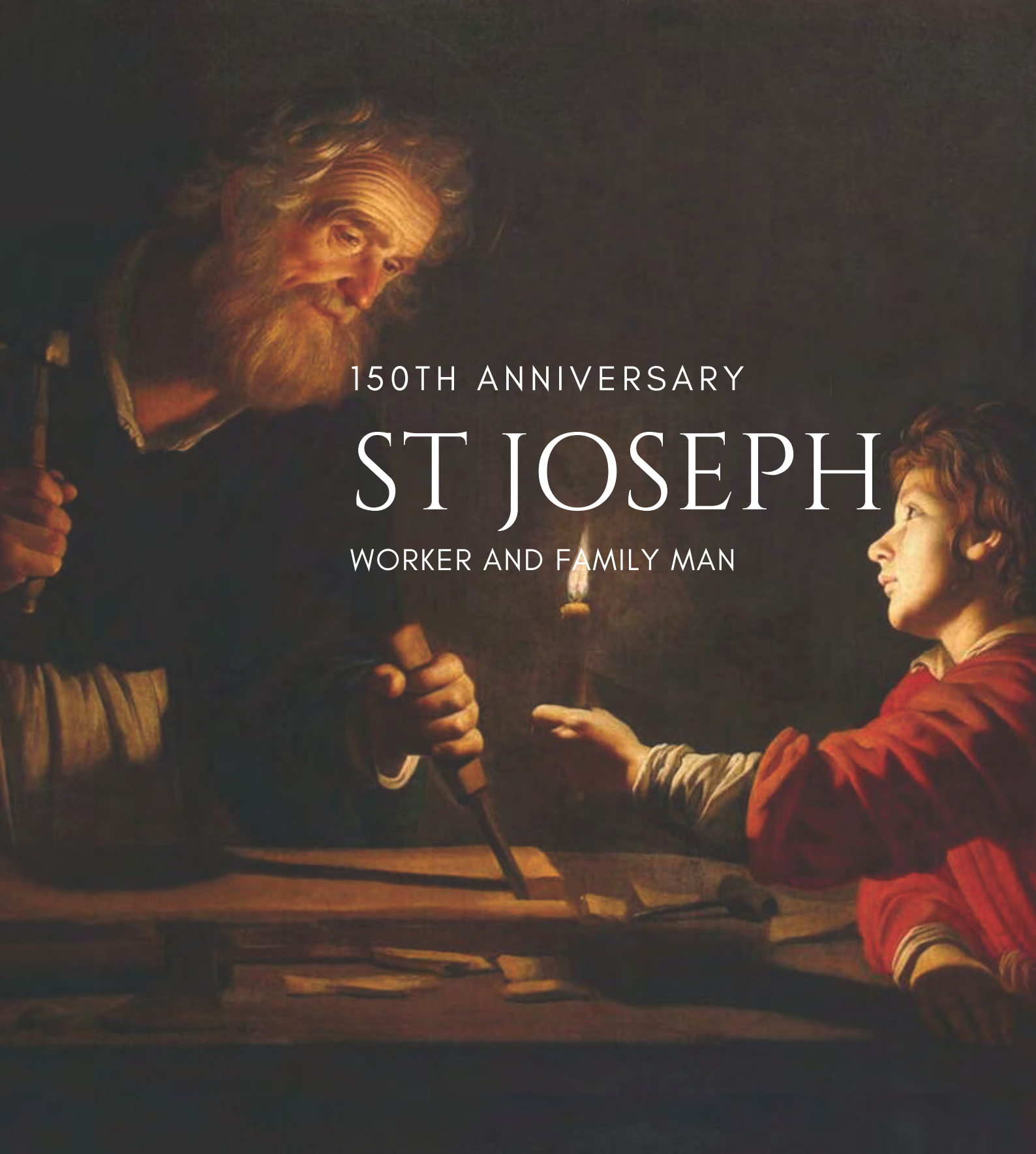




ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY



150TH ANNIVERSARY

ST JOSEPH

WORKER AND FAMILY MAN

Online Resource for Lent

www.columban.org.au

St Joseph 2020 - 2021
 Worker and family man



St Joseph the worker.

Pope Francis has named December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021 as a year honouring St Joseph as the earthly father of Jesus and husband of Mary. It is a year of petition for St Joseph's fatherly care for all people and earth itself. This Year of St Joseph is in honour of the 150th anniversary of St Joseph being named as patron of the Universal Church. www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html

St Columbans Mission Society has a particular association with St Joseph. He is the patron of the Church in China where the Columbans began their missionary work in 1920. After Jesus and Mary, many cathedrals and churches in China are dedicated in the name of St Joseph. http://hsstudyc.org.hk/en/china/chdoc/20201217_ti.pdf

Two feast days celebrate St Joseph: March 19, as protector of the universal church and the human family, and 1st May as co-worker with all those who do manual labour for a living.

Climate Challenge and
 St Joseph's Care

It is significant that the Year of St Joseph coincides with the *Laudato Si'* Special Anniversary Year named by Pope Francis. *The Year of Jubilee*, marking the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, began in May 2020 and will conclude in May 2021.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis exhorts us to know and respect earth so we can love it. As a carpenter St Joseph could see the gain in the wood he worked with, touching it and smelling it. He could even hear it as he sawed and tasted its dust. Pope Leo XIII in 1891 countered Marx by mapping a healthy link between capital and labour based on respect and fairness. It especially casts aside the greed of capitalising on unjust wages and bad work conditions. When Pope Pius XII created the feast of Joseph the Worker, May 1, 1955 on Labor Day, he wanted to counter negative views about manual labour in the light of the Gospel. That decade was the heyday of the *Young Christian Workers*.

In the 21st century Pope Francis asks us to invite the spirit of St Joseph into our lives as we listen to the twin cry of the earth and cry of the poor and respond with integrity – respect the earth's systems as having their own worth; listen to the scientists as they open up knowledge of God's creation; work for what Pope Francis terms integral ecology; and strive towards ecologically sustainable development that benefits the common good. Most recently Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti asks us to feel at one with the whole human family and he nominated St Joseph to lead the way.

Sr Mary Cresp RSJ leads us to see the family man Joseph as a skilled builder working with hard substances.....wood and stone. The devoted family man's work would also have included tending a garden to supply daily family needs. As was the custom, he would have kept small animals ...sheep and goats. <http://www.sosj.org.au/year-of-st-joseph-20/>



Naodamu, Labasa underwater after cyclone Ana in Fiji February 2021.

St Joseph 2020 - 2021
 We remember



People of Labasa Fiji living amongst the wreckage of cyclone Ana.

St Joseph

- Scripture tells how Joseph cared for his family Mt 1:18-25, 2:19-23, and 13:53-55; Lk 2:1-51.
- Traditionally St Joseph's death was marked on March 19, and popularised in the middle ages by the Servite Order as a patron of all believers doing God's will.
- In 1870 St Joseph was declared patron of the Universal Church.
- In 1955 the feast of Joseph the Worker, May 1, was created by Pius XII.
- Patron of the spiritual journey as a search for God in the midst of changing human trials.
- Patron of the dying as he died in the arms of Mary and Jesus (unlike Mary Jn 19:26-27).

The example and strength of St Joseph has made him a patron of many causes for believers over two millennia.

- Patron of the homeless and migrants as he secured a home for his family.
- Patron of teachers as he taught Jesus the skills of working wood and knowing the Scriptures.
- Patron of carers as he supplied food from his garden and flocks and taught Jesus compassion for those in need.
- Patron of carpenters and manual labourers, knowing repetition and fatigue in pursuit of his craft.
- Patron of national and local churches as loved members within the Family of God.



The children carrying their bedding to the school for shelter.

Images and icons depicting St Joseph

Evolving images according to era - Some carry the image of a lily to represent a caste relationship with Mary. Many represent a loving family or Joseph as a teacher of Jesus. Some present him as a carpenter with hammer and square. All have their place. However, in an age when followers of Jesus are taking up their ecological vocation, new icons of St Joseph and the Holy Family surrounded by the people and natural world of Nazareth might speak better to this era.



Photos: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Joseph

Liturgical Prayer

Excerpts www.liturgies.net/saints/joseph/joseph.htm

Collect March 19

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.

Collect May 1

God, Creator of all things, who laid down for the human race the law of work, graciously grant that by the example of St Joseph and under his patronage we may complete the works you set us to do and attain the rewards you promise.

Preface March 19

... this just man was given by you as spouse to the Virgin Mother of God and set as a wise and faithful servant in charge of your household to watch like a father over your Only Begotten Son, who was conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ ...



Local Fijian women helping to provide clean water to families.

Petitions

1. for heads of families – that we help neighbouring families to grow in peace and harmony so that each member fulfil their role with justice and compassion. We pray to the Lord ...
2. for men at risk – that we feel with the pain of men who feel they have lost their role in a rapidly changing world and practice mutual support in our own lives. We pray to the Lord ...
3. for just work places – that we plan and commit to creating the opportunity of rewarding work for all that also sustains the common good. We pray to the Lord ...
4. for teachers – that we bless our own teachers and praise the vocation of teachers to lead others to grow their skills and talents for the good of all. We pray to the Lord ...
5. for carpenters – that like all carpenters we may wonder at the hue and grain, strength and flexibility in every tree, respecting its niche within the web of life. We pray to the Lord ...
6. for earth – that with watchful care we respect the integrity of earth's systems, healing where we have done harm and fostering links that give life. We pray to the Lord ...
7. for divorced people – that we be slow to condemn those in broken relationships but with compassion support them in seeking a future fulfilling for all around them. We pray to the Lord ...
8. for leaders – that we look for people in church and state who are committed to the common good, elect them and hold them to work with integrity. We pray to the Lord ...



Holy Family Parish Church underwater in Fiji.



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Aftermath of cyclone Ana to homes in Fiji.

Columban Fr Pat Colgan writes the following in relation to cyclone Ana...

We feel for our fellow Columban parishioners in Labasa, Vanua Levu, who have suffered much worse than us in these last 2 weather patterns. It seems this truly is the “new normal” for mission in Fiji (at least for the 6 rainy months of every year). May God help us to face it with our people

Read the full story and more: <http://bit.ly/3k0Vz6V>

SUPPORT COLUMBAN WORKS

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Columban Fr Pat Colgan walking through the wreckage of cyclone Ana to Votua, Fiji.

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[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)
Rev Dr Charles Rue interview about his missionary work.

PHOTOS

Columban Frs Patrick Colgan and Carlo Jung SSC