



PREPARATION

Introduction :

Today we celebrate Saint Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary who cared for Jesus as he was growing up, and shared with him the skills of a carpenter's workshop.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Confession

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT

Let us pray...

Almighty God, ,

who raised up from the family of your servant David

Joseph the carpenter

to be the guardian of your incarnate Son

and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

give us grace to follow him

in faithful obedience to your commands;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever, **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading : Isaiah 11. 1 - 10

Behold, a shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 89. 26 - 36

God's promise to David

26 'He shall call to me, "You are my Father, ♦
my God, and the rock of my salvation;"
27 'And I will make him my firstborn, ♦
the most high above the kings of the earth.
28 'The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever, ♦
and my covenant will stand fast with him.
29 'His seed also will I make to endure for ever ♦
and his throne as the days of heaven.
30 'But if his children forsake my law ♦
and cease to walk in my judgements,
31 'If they break my statutes ♦
and do not keep my commandments,
32 'I will punish their offences with a rod ♦
and their sin with scourges.
33 'But I will not take from him my steadfast love ♦
nor suffer my truth to fail.
34 'My covenant will I not break ♦
nor alter what has gone out of my lips.
35 'Once for all have I sworn by my holiness ♦
that I will not prove false to David.
36 'His seed shall endure for ever ♦
and his throne as the sun before me;

Bless the Lord all those who hear his word and keep it,
their names shall be held in everlasting remembrance,

The Gospel : St. Matthew 1. 18 - 25

The holy Gospel is written in the gospel according to St. Matthew, the first
chapter beginning at the eighteenth verse.

Glory to you, O Lord

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily - Canon Alan Amos

Summary :

In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph is depicted as a good man, a working carpenter, who trusted in God. He received God's messenger who shared with him God's will for him and for Mary, to whom he was engaged to be married. Luke's gospel describes how Joseph took the new-born child as if he were his own. He was with Mary when, on the fortieth day after the birth, Jesus was presented in the Temple, 'where every first-born male is designated as holy to the Lord'. The adoption of Jesus by Joseph also established Jesus in the descent of David, to accord with the prophecy that Israel's deliverer would be of the House and lineage of David. [from "Exciting Holiness."]

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the grace of new beginnings in our own lives and in the world which we inhabit; Holy Spirit, be our Comforter and Guide :

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for all those suffering from the ravages of war, whether in Lebanon, Gaza, Palestine, Israel; Ukraine or Russia and Sudan;

And we pray at this time for the people of Syria, for the well-being of all.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We continue to pray for Pope Francis in hospital, and for Christian unity and for the ecumenical movement,
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

We pray for the sick who are known to us, and those caring for them, especially for Jann Coppen, Jonathan Bezzola, Sybil Sheppard, Chris Talbot, Joan Tye, Annemarie Hester, André Vivas, Timothy Creffield, Tianna Dagher, Edith Tanner, Livia Varju, Brenda Hand, Valerie Offord, Phil Thomas, Diana Mason, Robin Bailey, Judi Cianci, Ruth Wyler, Germain, Samuel Kalibala, Joyce McNulty, Trevor Thomas, Diana Dickinson, Denise Muhlethaler, Maya Mortimer, Rosabelle de Silva, Silvio -Morson, Anna Porraccin, Valerie Slessor, Frances Boo, Jenny Syrathev, George Thomasz, Lorensz Ranasinghe.

May the Holy Spirit bless and strengthen each one of them.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We remember those departed this life, especially those we have known and loved and those who need our prayers.

We hold in our prayers today Patricia Brown, Dr Brian Marshall and Janet Pharaoh

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.
And may light perpetual shine upon them
May they rest in the peace of Christ
And rise in glory with the saints.

The Peace

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you (Isaiah 55.12)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with your spirit

The table is prepared.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever!
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.
You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord!
As a mother tenderly gathers her children
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.
On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends,
and taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take eat: this is my body which is given for you
At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.
Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us into the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.
Remember Lord your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace
Bring us at the last withh Blessed Mary and with all your saints to the vision of
that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by him, with him, and in him,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:
**Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in the one
bread.**

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.

Let us prepare ourselves to make our spiritual communion.

We offer and present to you, Lord our heavenly Father, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a holy and living sacrifice; grant that being present together in heart and mind at this holy communion we may now be filled with your heavenly blessing through the redeeming grace of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ... [short pause]

Lord Jesus Christ, in outward signs of bread and wine you have made known your presence among us; as we unite with one another from the places where we are, may your communion be fulfilled in us now through the work of the life-giving Holy Spirit. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayers

Heavenly Father,
whose Son grew in wisdom and stature
in the home of Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth,
and on the wood of the cross
perfected the work of the world's salvation:
help us, strengthened by this sacrament of his passion,
to count the wisdom of the world as foolishness,
and to walk with him in simplicity and trust;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

May Almighty God give us grace
to live our lives with faith, hope and love,
And may the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**