



17th March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may have heard that Pope Francis has dedicated this year to St. Joseph, under the title “Patris Corde”: With a Father’s Heart. He concluded this letter stating that its aim was to:

- **Increase:** Increase our love for this great saint
- **Implore:** To encourage us to implore his intercession
- **Imitate:** To imitate his virtues and his zeal

This is a particularly poignant theme as we know that Joseph was Jesus’ step-father; not his actual father - but he was a father to him nonetheless. This reminds us that all family life (in whatever form that takes) is sacred. Due to this reason, amongst many others, Joseph is the patron saint of families. He knows the joys, and the struggles, of what it means to be a family.

Along with our diocesan, national and international faith family, we have been praying a Novena to St. Joseph. This 9-day period of prayer ends in advance of St. Joseph’s feast day on the 19th March. On this day, we will be celebrating St. Joseph through regular opportunities for prayer, our work and our actions. We will also be sharing a video liturgy on this day, which will be found at <https://stedwards.npcat.org.uk/worshipping-together-at-home/> as well as our new Facebook page.

If you would like to join us in our Novena, it is shared on Twitter each day. We also say the prayer below daily:

*St. Joseph,
Watch over me and care for me
Just as you cared for the child Jesus;
And, by your help,
May I come to know your Son and grow
In strength
And wisdom
And the favour of God.
Amen.*

St. Joseph, pray for us.

If you would like any further resources to support your devotion to St. Joseph, please do get in touch with us.

Mrs Gardner
(Leader for Catholic Life)

Live, Love, Serve

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown | Head of School: Mrs A Teasdale
St Edward’s Catholic Primary School, Eastbourne Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QS
Tel: 01642 819507 | Email: enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk | Website: stedwards.npcat.org.uk

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