



CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM

Walsingham - "England's Nazareth"

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

1st May 2018



Prayer to St Joseph after the Rosary

To you, O Blessed Joseph, we come in our trials, and having asked the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently ask your patronage also. Through that sacred bond of charity which united you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the fatherly love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you to look graciously upon the beloved inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by his blood, and to aid us in our necessities with your power and strength.

O most provident guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ. Most beloved father, dispel the evil of falsehood and sin. Our most mighty protector, graciously assist us from heaven in our struggle with the powers of darkness.

And just as you once saved the Child Jesus from mortal danger, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of her enemies and from all adversity. Shield each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your help, we may be able to live a virtuous life, to die a holy death, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

A prayer composed by Leo XIII to be recited after the Marian Rosary.

ST JOSEPH AND THE ROSARY

This prayer to Saint Joseph—spouse of the Virgin Mary, Foster Father of Jesus, and Patron Saint of the Universal Church—was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, **Quamquam Pluries**. He asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary. The prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence (Handbook of Indulgences, conc. 19), and may be said after the customary Salve Regina and concluding prayer. It may also be used to conclude other Marian devotions.

Pope Leo XIII is famously quoted in Walsingham as prophesying **“When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England”**.

The Lay-initiative Rosary on the Coast which took place on 29th April at 3pm – the hour of Mercy is being held up as a beacon of light to the Nations. Over 400 locations throughout the British Isles saw the faithful and their Bishops holding up the Rosary to call upon the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for her to return to England.

England is her Dowry. So, what is St Joseph's role as Father of the New Evangelisation? - To be right at the front of the line of all the Saints and Martyrs and Holy men and women of the British Isles, leading the Trumpet Call to Jesus, through Mary.



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Why did Pope Leo XIII ask for us to pray to St Joseph after the Rosary?

Pope Leo XIII gave the following explanation for the need for special prayers to Our Lady and St Joseph for the world at that time which is as relevant today as then:

...Now, Venerable Brethren, you know the times in which we live; they are scarcely less deplorable for the Christian religion than the worst days, which in time past were most full of misery to the Church. We see faith, the root of all the Christian virtues, lessening in many souls; we see charity growing cold; the young generation daily growing in depravity of morals and views; the Church of Jesus Christ attacked on every side by open force or by craft; a relentless war waged against the Sovereign Pontiff; and the very foundations of religion undermined with a boldness which waxes daily in intensity. These things are, indeed, so much a matter of notoriety that it is needless for Us to expatiate on the depths to which society has sunk in these days, or on the designs which now agitate the minds of men. In circumstances so unhappy and troublous, human remedies are insufficient, and it becomes necessary, as a sole resource, to beg for assistance from the Divine power.

We know that there is sure help in the maternal goodness of the Virgin, and We are very certain that We shall never vainly place Our trust in her. If, on innumerable occasions, she has displayed her power in aid of the Christian world, why should We doubt that she will now renew the assistance of her power and favor, if humble and constant prayers are offered up on all sides to her?

But We entertain another object, which, according to your wont, Venerable Brethren, you will advance with fervor. ...We judge it of deep utility for the Christian people, continually to invoke with great piety and trust, together with the Virgin-Mother of God, her chaste Spouse, the Blessed Joseph; and We regard it as most certain that this will be most pleasing to the Virgin herself... And as, moreover, it is of high importance that the devotion to St. Joseph should engraft itself upon the daily pious practices of Catholics, we desire that the Christian people should be urged to it above all by Our words and authority.

St Joseph, Patron Saint of the Universal Church

The special motives for which St. Joseph has been proclaimed Patron of the Church, and from which the Church looks for singular benefit from his patronage and protection, are that Joseph was the spouse of Mary and that he was reputed the Father of Jesus Christ. From these sources have sprung his dignity, his holiness, his glory.

In truth, the dignity of the Mother of God is so lofty that naught created can rank above it. But as Joseph has been united to the Blessed Virgin by the ties of marriage, it may not be doubted that he approached nearer than any to the eminent dignity by which the Mother of God surpasses so nobly all created natures. For marriage is the most intimate of all unions which from its essence imparts a community of gifts between those that by it are joined together. Thus, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her



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life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity.

And for such reasons the Blessed Patriarch looks upon the multitude of Christians who make up the Church as confided specially to his trust—this limitless family spread over the earth, over which, because he is the spouse of Mary and the Father of Jesus Christ he holds, as it were, a paternal authority. It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.

Today is the Feastday of St Joseph the Worker.

St Joseph, Protector of Nazareth, Protector of Walsingham, England's Nazareth, pray for us.