



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

Walsingham - "England's Nazareth"

REFLECTION FROM THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

1ST May 2018



ST JOSEPH THE WORKER SETS ABOUT TO RE-BUILD ENGLAND, OUR LADY'S DOWRY

*"I have never known anyone who ... honoured him by particular services who did not advance greatly in virtue, for he helps in a special way those souls who recommend themselves to him," St. **Teresa of Avila.***

Born in Bethlehem of Judea, St. Joseph came from the royal lineage of King David. Both St. Luke and St. Matthew mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). The Scriptures do not tell us why or when originally St. Joseph left Bethlehem and chose Nazareth to be his place of residence, but it tells us that he was a carpenter (Matthew 13:55).

According to tradition, when St. Mary, who was dedicated to the temple, completed twelve years in the sanctuary and could not stay there any longer, the priests announced through Judea that they wished to find in the tribe of Judah a respectable man, to espouse her. St. Joseph was among the candidates. A miracle revealed the choice of St. Joseph God had made. When the priests gathered twelve righteous men from the tribe of Judah and took their staffs inside the sanctuary, a dove flew up and stood on the staff belonging to St. Joseph. They



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

Walsingham - "England's Nazareth"

immediately knew that this was Gods will. The righteous St. Joseph took St. Mary to his house. Both spouses intended for this betrothal to be virginal marriage.

St Joseph the Carpenter, St Joseph the Worker, St Joseph – Master of the Interior Life.

Not only was St. Joseph a competent Carpenter, he has also become known as Master of the Interior life. St Theresa of Avila and many other Saints that have gone before us have highly commended his patronage to assist us in growing spiritually towards Jesus, through Mary.

“St Joseph is the model of those humble ones that Christianity raises up to great destinies...he is the proof that in order to be a good and genuine follower of Christ, there is no need to do great things- it is enough to have the common, simple and human virtues, but they need to be true and authentic” (Redemptoris Custos, 24).”

The re-building of England's Nazareth

St. Joseph is essential for the re-building of Walsingham, England's Nazareth and what this means for the future of England, Our Lady's Dowry.

If re-building is required, then St. Joseph, Father of the New Evangelisation along with St Francis and his followers are required to re-build the church in England. This is not simply about building new buildings but restoring the faith of the people of England.

In 2020 when the re-dedication of England as Our Lady's Dowry takes place on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, it is the faith of the people of England which is being offered to Our Lady. What better way to help prepare with the guidance of a Master Builder – St Joseph.

On this feastday of St Joseph the Worker we commend these prayers which you can download to pray with St Joseph for the restoration of Our Lady's Dowry and her ancient splendour.

Pray with St Joseph: <https://youtu.be/wqnUhTNdD48> to grow your faith and prepare to offer this to Our Lady through the Angelus Promise which offers your vocation with that of Our Lady to God.