

## *Sending in your Petitions .....*

You are invited to send in your petitions, which will be placed at St Joseph's Altar during the Novena to be remembered in the Masses and prayers. If you would like to have your deceased relatives and friends remembered or if you have any special intentions, please list them on the enclosed slip and return them before the start of the Novena. Thank you so much for supporting our missionary work in previous years with your prayers, your letters of encouragement and your contributions.

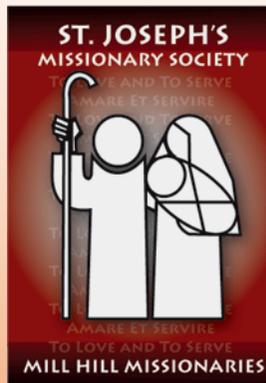
For the first time, our Novena Masses will be available to view on Zoom, via our Mill Hill website: [www.millhillmissionaries.com](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com).

All donations towards our work are gratefully received. Could you please make cheques payable to 'St Joseph's Missionary Society'. Thank you.

## *Requesting a Booklet .....*

If you would like receive a Novena Booklet by post to enable you to join us from home by praying the daily Novena, please write to the address below, enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope if possible.

Novena Director  
41 Victoria Road  
Freshfield  
L37 1LW  
[novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com)



For more information on Mill Hill Missionaries, visit  
[www.millhillmissionaries.com](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com)

Registered Charity Numbers 220690 & SC039809

Mill Hill Missionaries

# NOVENA NEWS

## The Year of St. Joseph



## National Novena to St Joseph

10—18 March 2021

*Warmest greetings .....*

41 Victoria Road  
Freshfield  
L37 1LW

There can be few, if any, of us who have not been in some way impacted by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic over the last 12 months. Many of us will have endured the double grief of not being present when a loved one has died, either alone, or in intensive care, surrounded only by sophisticated medical equipment and hard-pressed medical staff. Even the pain of self-isolation, separation from family and friends, the shattering of our hopes and dreams, can feel like its own form of death.

For all of us, the events of the past year have forced us to cancel or change our plans, to accept challenges we would never otherwise have dreamed of accepting, whether it is home-schooling our children or grandchildren, or caring for a shielding and vulnerable loved one or neighbour. At the very least, this past year has given us pause to reflect, to reassess our priorities, and to ask what our true values in life are.

On the 8th of December last year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and with the current pandemic very much in mind, Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph, to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Pope Pius IX of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church.

In his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), inaugurating the Year, Pope Francis acknowledges that during this pandemic we have experienced how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked... men and women working to provide essential services and public safety... How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all."

He adds, "Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an *incomparable role in the history of salvation* (my italics). A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all."

I would like to thank you all, once again, for your ongoing generosity, your prayers and support through your participation in the National Novena of St. Joseph, and for continuing to promote the Mill Hill Missionaries in your homes, schools and parishes.

*Patris Corde*, which inaugurates The Year of St. Joseph, forms the basis this year for our Novena reflections on the life of Jesus' earthly father. May the praying of our Novena in this Year of St. Joseph guide and inspire us into a closer relationship with this model of all earthly parenthood. May this model be, as Pope Francis puts it, a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood, that of the "heavenly Father".

*May this Novena of 2021 be a means of grace and consolation to all who have suffered bereavement and loss during this pandemic.*

The Novena Director, MHM

*The cover photograph is from from a hand-painted icon, donated to the Mill Hill Missionaries by The Tablet, and now hangs in the chapel in Maidenhead.*