

19th March

St Joseph, Spouse of Our Lady
Confessor

The Bible speaks little of St Joseph, the spouse of Our Lady. According to legends he was chosen as Mary's husband by a miracle – many men brought rods to the temple, and his broke into blossom. After being told by an Angel about the nature of the child Mary was expecting he took her to him and became the foster-father of Our Lord. Since he is no more mentioned in the Gospels it is normally assumed that he died before Christ's Baptism. As his ministry was humble and self-effacing, he was hardly venerated at all – this changed only in the late Middle Ages, in a time of great interest in the earthly life of Christ and His family. In the Baroque, the feast of St Joseph was introduced. Pius IX declared him, who had been protector of the Holy Family, patron of the Universal Church, and in the 20th century he also became patron of the Catholic workers (Feast on May 1st).

White

1 Cl. (Duplex 1 Cl.)

INTROIT: Ps. 91:13, 14

Jusus ut palma florebit : sicut cedrus Libani multiplicabitur : plantatus in domo Domini, in atriis domus Dei nostri. T.P. Alleluia, alleluia. Ps. *ibid.* 2: Bonum est confiteri Domino : et psallere nomini tuo, Altissime. ✠ Gloria.

*The just shall flourish like the palm-tree : he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus : planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. In Eastertide: Alleluia, alleluia. Ps. *ibid.* 2: It is good to give praise to the Lord : and to sing to thy name, O Most high. ✠ Glory.*

COLLECT

Sanctissimæ Genitricis tuæ Sponsi, quæsumus Domine, meritis adjuvemur : ut quod possibilitas nostra non obtinet, ejus nobis intercessione donetur. Qui vivis.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, that we may be helped by the merits of thy most holy mother's spouse, and that what of ourselves we cannot obtain may be given to us through his intercession. Who livest.

LESSON: *Ecclus.* 45:1-6

Lectio Libri Sapientiæ

Dilectus Deo et hominibus, cujus memoria in benedictione est. Similem illum fecit in gloria sanctorum, et magnificavit eum in timore inimicorum, et in verbis suis monstra placavit. Glorificavit illum in conspectu regum, et jussit illi coram populo suo, et ostendit illi gloriam suam. In fide et lenitate ipsius sanctum fecit illum, et elegit eum ex omni carne. Audivit enim eum, et vocem ipsius, et induxit illum in nubem. Et dedit illi coram præcepta, et legem vitæ, et disciplinæ.

A lesson from the Book of Wisdom

He was beloved of God and men, whose memory is in benediction. He made him like the saints in glory, and magnified him in the fear of his enemies; and with his words he made prodigies to cease; he glorified him in the sight of kings, and gave him commandments in the sight of his people, and showed him his glory; he sanctified him in his faith and meekness, and chose him out of all flesh; for he heard him and his voice, and brought him into a cloud; and he gave him commandments before his face, and a law of life and instruction.

GRADUAL: Ps. 20:4, 5

Domine, prævenisti eum in benedictionibus dulcedinis : posuisti in capite ejus coronam de lapide pretioso. V̄. Vitam petiit, et tribuisti ei longitudinem dierum in sæculum sæculi.

O Lord, thou hast prevented him with blessings of sweetness; thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones. V̄. He asked life of thee, and thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever.

TRACT: Ps. 111:1, 3

Beatus vir, qui timet Dominum : in mandatis ejus cupit nimis. V̄. Potens in terra erit semen ejus : generatio rectorum benedicetur. V̄. Gloria et divitiæ in domo ejus : et justitia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord : he delights exceedingly in his commandments. V̄. His seed shall be mighty upon earth : the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. V̄. Glory and wealth shall be in his house : and his justice remaineth for ever and ever.

In Eastertide, GRADUAL and TRACT are replaced by the following ALLELUIAS:

ALLELUIA: Ecclus. 45:9

Amavit eum Dominus, et ornavit eum : stolam gloriæ induit eum.

The Lord loved him, and adorned him : he clothed him with a robe of glory.

ALLELUIA: Os. 14:6

Justus germinabit sicut lilium : et florebit in æternum ante Dominum.

The just shall spring as the lily : and shall flourish for ever before the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mt. 1:18-21

Sequentia sancti Evangelii secundum Matthæum.

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

Cum esset desponsata mater Jesu Maria Joseph, antequam convenirent, inventa est in utero habens de Spiritu Sancto. Joseph autem vir ejus, cum esset justus, et nollet eam traducere, voluit occulte dimittere eam. Hæc autem eo cogitante, ecce Angelus Domini apparuit in somnis ei, dicens : Joseph, fili David, noli timere accipere Mariam conjugem tuam : quod enim in ea natum est, de Spiritu Sancto est. Pariet autem filium, et vocabis nomen ejus Jesum : ipse enim salvum faciet populum suum a peccatis eorum.

When Mary, the mother of Jesus, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child, of the Holy Ghost. Whereupon Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing publicly to expose her, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus. For he shall save his people from their sins.

OFFERTORY: Ps. 88:25, 20, 34, 38

Veritas mea et misericordia mea cum ipso : *Et in nomine meo exaltabitur cornu ejus. T.P. Alleluia. V̄. Posui adjutorium meum super potentem, et exaltavi electum de plebe mea. *Et in. V̄. Misericordiam meam non dispergam ab eo : et sedes ejus in conspectu meo. *Et in.

*My truth and my mercy are with him : *And in my name his horn shall be exalted. In Eastertide: Alleluia. V̄. I have laid help upon one that is mighty, and have exalted one chosen out of my people. *And in. V̄. My mercy I will not take away from him : and his seat shall be before me. *And in.*

SECRET

Debitum tibi, Domine, nostræ reddimus servitutis, suppliciter exorantes : ut suffragiis beati Joseph Sponsi Genitricis Filii tui Jesu Christi Domini nostri, in nobis tua munera tuearis; ob cuius venerandam festivitatem laudis tibi hostias immolamus. Per eundem Dominum.

We render thee, O Lord, the homage of our service, humbly entreating that thou wouldst preserve in us thy gifts by the prayers of blessed Joseph, the spouse of the mother of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; on whose venerated festival we offer to thee the sacrifice of praise. Through the same Lord.

PREFACE

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere : Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus : Et te in festivitate beati Joseph debitis magnificare præconiis, benedicere et prædicare. Qui et vir justus, a te Deiparæ Virgini Sponsus est datus : et fidelis servus ac prudens, super Familiam tuam est constitutus : ut Unigenitum tuum, Sancti Spiritus obumbratione conceptum, paterna vice custodiret Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestates. Cæli, cælorumque Virtutes, ac beata Seraphim, socia exultatione concelebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti jubeas, deprecamur, supplici confessione dicentes :

It is truly meet and just, right and salutary, that we should always, and in all places, give thanks to thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God : and that we should magnify thee with due praise, bless and confess thee on the feast of holy Joseph. Who, a righteous man, was given by thee to be the spouse of the Virgin Mother of God : a faithful and wise servant, was set over thy Family : that, with a father's care, he should guard thine only-begotten Son, conceived of the Holy Ghost, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise thy majesty, the Dominions adore, the Powers tremble. The Heavens, and the Virtues of the heavens, and the blessed Seraphim, do celebrate with united joy. In union with whom, we beseech thee, that thou wouldst command our voices also to be admitted, with suppliant confession, saying:

COMMUNION: Mt. 1:20

Joseph fili David, noli timere accipere Mariam conjugem tuam : quod enim in ea natum est, de Spiritu Sancto est. T.P. Alleluia.

Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife : for that which is born in her is of the Holy Ghost. In Eastertide: Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION

Adesto nobis, quæsumus, misericors Deus : et, intercedente pro nobis beato Joseph Confessore, tua circa nos propitiatus dona custodi. Per Dominum.

Be nigh unto us, we beseech thee, O merciful God : and through the intercession of the blessed Confessor Joseph mercifully preserve thy gifts in us. Through our Lord.