

Prayer to St. Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Blessed St. Joseph, patron saint of the universal Church, how timely that this year, a year marked with unprecedented events and chaos that we call on you and seek you like never before as our protector and guide. Dearest, St. Joseph, we the parish of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament Labuan, place ourselves before you as we strive to be more vigilant in the light of the Beatitudes, to derive the strength and honor in our response to the call to holiness; and the sanctity of life. In the faith, hope and love of Jesus your Son, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to be obedient servants of Christ, our Lord, and so be made worthy to call God, Abba Father. We ask this through your intercession and the intercession of your beloved spouse, the instigator of the first miracle at the wedding at Cana, our Blessed Mother Mary. Amen.



The image of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The image of St. Joseph with the Holy Infant Jesus is taken from the statue in our Church and so is the Sanctuary Lamp at the right side of the image of St. Joseph. At the rear, are the Tabernacle and the statue of Blessed Virgin Mary. The wordings imprinted denote the Year of St. Joseph from 8th December 2020 until 8th December 2021 with the theme: “*Patris corde*” in Latin, meaning “With a Father’s Heart”.

Attached to the entire image are few symbols and below are explanations to what they signify:

† The Sanctuary Lamp: Representing the presence of Christ and requires us to have the spirit of being vigilant at all time.

† The giant rope: Representing Strength and Honor, the strong bond within the family and the community and the great honor every individual has in upholding the family life as well as in participating in the parish life.

+ The two ends of the rope are split into 8 threads representing the 8 Beatitudes, which form the basis of our Christian living. (Mt 5:3-12).

+ Each 8 individual threads are braided into 6 smaller threads, calling us to reflect on the miracles of changing the 6 jars of water into wine at the wedding

at Cana, God’s marriage feast to humanity, his self-giving for men where we are to emulate in our own total self-giving to our family and others, meaning to walk the extra mile, to go beyond obligation – “And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”(Mt 5:41).

+ The 3 knots: Signifying the parish Commitment to the commandment of God.

- The first knot represents Faith. Faith requires us to be poor in Spirit, having the right attitude towards God and our neighbors.

- The second knot represents Hope. Hope requires us to have Wisdom. St Paul wrote “In hope we have been saved.” (Rom 8:24) Hence, as people of hope we must have the wisdom to strive for the right values in life.

- The third knot represents Love. It is out of Love for humanity that God became Man - Jesus total submission, his complete obedience to the will of the Father. Likewise, our love for God therefore must be accompanied by knowing and keeping His commands.

The image as a whole, with the church bell above it, calls for the sanctity of life. May we persevere in the teaching of the Apostles, in unceasing prayer, and in the breaking of bread. May we remain ever one in mind and heart for the glory of God, our Heavenly Father. Amen.

15 February 2021