

# Children's Newsletter

## St Mary's

4th Sunday  
of Advent

### Joseph

It is sometimes easy to forget about Joseph when we are hearing about the story of Christmas, but Joseph played an important part in the life of Jesus.

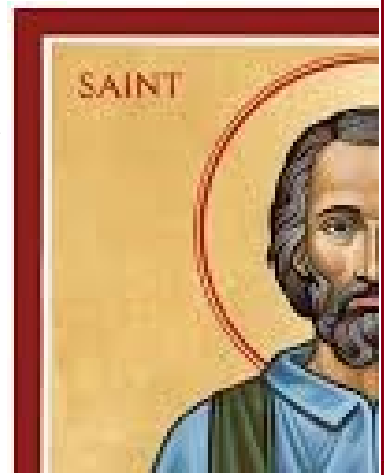
We do not know much about him, we know he was a carpenter and was not a rich man. We know he married Mary and went with her to Bethlehem and we know that he cared for Jesus and brought him up.

When the angel came to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately took them into Egypt until the danger was over.

When Jesus was lost in the temple, it was Joseph and Mary who searched for him until they found him.

Joseph is the patron saint of families, fathers and working people among other things. He has two feast days; March 19th for Joseph the husband of Mary and May 1st for Joseph the Worker.

If you were able to meet St Joseph, what would you ask him?



### Who are the Angels we hear about?

The Archangel Gabriel is the messenger of God.

The Archangel Michael is the leader of God's forces of Heaven.

The Archangel Raphael is known as God's healer.

As well as the archangels everyone has a Guardian Angel. This is a heavenly spirit sent by God to watch over each of us throughout our lives. The following is a prayer for you to say to your Guardian Angel.

**O Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this day be at my side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide.  
Amen.**



### Facts about the Angel Gabriel

1. Gabriel is in the Old and New Testament
2. Gabriel is known as the messenger of God
3. Gabriel means 'man of God'
4. Gabriel tells people not to be afraid

### Why do we put Tinsel on the Christmas Tree?

There are lots of different stories to explain it. One of them is this one.

After Jesus was born the angel told Joseph not to go back to Nazareth. King Herod was looking for the baby. Instead he was to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt and wait there until it was safe.

Joseph did as he was asked. The Holy Family left in the night time to try and escape the soldiers who were already searching for him. Joseph kept the family travelling until they were too tired to go any further.

Exhausted, they found a cave where they made themselves as comfortable as possible and tried to sleep.

In the cave was a spider who had been watching the family settle to sleep. Quietly, the spider made his way to the entrance of the cave. He could see the soldiers in the distance as they searched the roads for the family who were now sleeping peacefully in his cave.

Quickly, the spider worked and made a shining web over the entrance. Not one gap could be seen in the beautiful web. When the soldiers reached the cave they did not go in because they believed no one could have entered without destroying the web.

The soldiers moved on and the family was safe.

Today, the tinsel put on the Christmas tree is a reminder of the spider's web which saved the Holy Family from Herod's soldiers.

