

Blessing for a Family or Household

All make the sign of the cross.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and forever.
R. Amen.

Leader: From the Sacrament of Marriage the family has received newness of life and the grace of Christ. The family is especially important to the Church and to civil society, for it is the primary life-giving community. In our celebration today we call down the Lord's blessing upon us, so that we may continually be instruments of God's grace to one another and witnesses to faith in all the circumstances of life. With God as our help we fulfil our mission by conforming our entire life to the Gospel and so witness to Christ before the world.

Reader: Listen to the words of the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians: (Ephesians 4:1-6)
I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Leader: Christ the Lord, the Word coeternal with the Father, lived among us and chose to be part of a family and to enrich it with his blessings. Let us humbly ask his favour and protection on this family:
R. Lord, keep our family in your peace.

Leader: Through your own obedience to Mary and Joseph you consecrated family life; make this family holy by your presence. For this we pray:
R. Lord, keep our family in your peace.

Leader: You made your family the model of prayer, of love, and of obedience to your Father's will; by your grace make this family holy and make it rich with your gifts.
For this we pray:
R. Lord, keep our family in your peace.

Leader: Now let us pray as Christ the Lord taught us...
R. Our Father...

Leader: O God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. Shower your blessings on this family gathered here in your name. Enable those who are joined by one love to support one another by their fervour of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

The leader may sprinkle all with holy water if desired.

Leader: May the Lord Jesus, who lived with his Holy Family in Nazareth, dwell also with our family, keep it from all evil, and make all of us one in heart and mind.
R. Amen.

All make the sign of the cross.



DIOCESE OF CLOGHER



To You, O Blessed Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph,
do we come in our tribulation,
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,
we confidently invoke your patronage also.
Through that charity which bound you
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God
and through the paternal love
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.
O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;
O most loving father, ward off from us
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us
and from heaven assist us in our struggle
with the power of darkness.
As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,
so now protect God's Holy Church
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,
so that, supported by your example and your aid,
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

This prayer to Saint Joseph—spouse of the Virgin Mary, foster father of Jesus, and patron saint of the universal Church—was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, *Quamquam pluries*. He asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary, especially during the month of October, which is dedicated to the Rosary. The prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence and may be said after the customary *Salve Regina* (Hail, Holy Queen) and concluding prayer. It may also be used to conclude other Marian devotions.



DIOCESE OF CLOGHER



Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

God our Father in heaven
God the Son, Redeemer of the world
God the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity, one God
Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy

Have Mercy on Us

Holy Mary
Saint Joseph
Noble son of the House of David
Light of patriarchs
Husband of the Mother of God
Guardian of the Virgin
Foster father of the Son of God
Faithful guardian of Christ
Head of the holy family
Joseph, chaste and just
Joseph, prudent and brave
Joseph, obedient and loyal
Pattern of patience
Lover of poverty
Model of workers
Example to parents
Guardian of virgins
Pillar of family life
Comfort of the troubled
Hope of the sick
Patron of the dying
Terror of evil spirits
Protector of the Church

*Pray
for
Us*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

**Spare us, O Lord
Graciously hear us, O Lord
Have mercy on us**

He made him the lord of His household

And ruler over all His possessions

Let us pray

In your loving care, which goes beyond our understanding,
O God, you chose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of your most
Holy Mother. As we honour him on earth as our protector,
let him intercede for us in Heaven,
you who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen



DIOCESE OF CLOGHER