

**O
A
R**

A letter to our Friends - St Joseph 2020

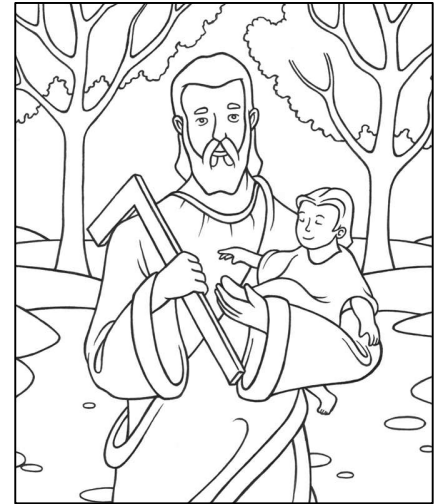
THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FRIARS

St Rita's Centre, Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton, Devon EX14 1AP

Tel: Office 01404 42635 Email: stritascentre@outlook.com

Registered Charity

Dear Friends, dreams are funny things, sometimes we can have such a happy dream we don't want to wake up and if we do, no matter how hard we can never get back to that happy dream. Sometimes we can have dreams that make us feel restless. This can be put down to worries or fears that have happened during the day. Just sometimes we can wake up from a nightmare and be very frightened. I am told the average person has three to five dreams per night, however, most dreams are immediately or quickly forgotten. On looking into it I discovered that dreams and the understanding of dreams, has as many theories as the stars in the sky.



Of all the characters in the Gospels, St Joseph is the one who comes across as the dreamer. He had four dreams all recorded in St. Matthew. His first dream is when he is told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife and she will give birth to a son, from the Holy Spirit and they will name him Jesus – Joseph obeys without hesitation. His second dream comes after the three wise men had left. In this dream he is told to take the Child and his mother and flee into Egypt, once more Joseph obeys without any hesitation. In the third dream he is told to go back to Israel as those who tried to kill him were dead. As usual the dream is obeyed. The fourth and final dream. He was warned not to go to Judea but rather to Galilee in the North of the country and he settles in Nazareth.

There can be no doubt that St. Joseph was a great man who had four dreams from God and obeyed the commands without hesitation. It is little wonder that he is given such honour in the hierarchy of the saints.

Going back, to our own dreams – if you have happy dreams enjoy them. If you have anxiety dreams, do not worry – all will be well. And if you have a nightmare remember Jesus's favourite saying – do not be afraid, I am with you always.

On the 11th March we start the novena in honour of St. Joseph. All the petitions you send us will be remembered in our prayers, and on the feast of St Joseph, 19th March, the Eucharist will be celebrated by our friars for your intentions. May the good Lord always keep you secure, loved and protected under the guidance of Our Father in Heaven and the intercession of St. Joseph.

Fr Gerald Wilson