

Wednesday in the Second Week  
After the Octave of Easter

## THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Spouse of the B.V.M.,  
Confessor & Patron of the  
Universal Church

Double I Class

AT I VESPER S

Psalms as at I Vespers of the Common of Apostles, with the Ants. of Lauds below, omitting the 4th.

Chapter as at Lauds below.

**SHORT R.** He made him Lord of his house, \* Alleluia, alleluia. **HE** made him. **V.** And ruler of all his substance. **ALLELUIA.** **GLORY** be. **HE** made him.

Hymn, *Te Joseph celebrent*, from the Feast of St Joseph on March 19th.

**V.** I do give praise unto thy name, alleluia. **R.** For thou art my defender and helper, alleluia.

**MAG. ANT.** When Mary † the Mother of Jesus was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost, alleluia.

Collect as at Lauds, below.

AT MATINS

All as in the Propers for the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker (May 1), in the Additional Offices Supplement, p. (20).

If alternative II Nocturn Lessons are desired, the following may be used:

A Sermon by Saint Augustine the Bishop. (*De Nupt. et Concup. lib. 1*)

LESSON V.

**T**HE Angel did not speak falsely when he said to Joseph: Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife. She is called wife because of the mutual confidence established between them at the time of her espousal, although he had not known her carnally, nor was he ever so to do. And the name of wife was not lost or rendered untrue because there had not been any carnal intercourse, and would not be in the future. She was, in fact, The Virgin; and therefore she was holier and a more wonderful source of joy to her husband just because she became a mother without a man's intervention. Thus Joseph knew Mary to be like unto himself in faithfulness, unlike him as regards her offspring.

LESSON VI.

**O**N account of this faithful union, both Mary and Joseph merited the name of Christ's parents. And not only is she called his Mother, but he also is called his father, as being the husband of his Mother, not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. But even though he was a father only in spirit, whilst she was Mother according to the flesh, yet they both were the parents of his humility, not of his glory; of his infirmity, not of his divinity. For the Gospel doth not lie, when it saith: And Joseph and his Mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And in another place: His parents went to Jerusalem every year. And a little further on: And his Mother said unto him; Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

LESSON VII.

**B**UT, to shew that, apart from them, he had a Father who begat him without a mother, he answered them: How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I

must be about my Father's business? And, as a set-off to this, lest anyone might think that by these words he denied his parents, the Evangelist immediately addeth: And they understood the saying which he spake unto them; and he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them. To whom was he subject but to his parents? And who was thus subject but Jesus Christ, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal to God? Why therefore was he subject to them who were so far below the form of God, except that he humbled himself, taking upon himself the form of a servant, of which form they were the parents?

#### LESSON VIII.

**B**UT truly, neither of them would have attained unto the parenthood of this form of a servant, except they had become respectively husband and wife, albeit without any carnal intercourse. And hence, when the ancestors of Christ are recounted in direct line of succession, the genealogy was fittingly traced down to Joseph. Otherwise, it would have been a slur upon the male sex, which is wont to be accorded the greater dignity. At the same time the truth did not suffer, for both Joseph and Mary were of the seed of David, from which it was prophesied that Christ should come. Note how thus all the good things of marriage are found in these parents of Christ: offspring, fidelity, the marriage bond. The offspring we know, was the Lord Jesus himself; their fidelity is proved because there was no adultery; the marriage bond, because there was no divorce.

#### AT LAUDS & THE HOURS

**ANT. 1.** And Jacob † begat Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was

born Jesus, who is called Christ, alleluia. *Psalm 93 Dominus regnavit and the rest (p. 34).*

**ANT. 2.** The Angel Gabriel † was sent from God to a Virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the Virgin's name was Mary, alleluia.

**ANT. 3.** Joseph went up † from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, alleluia.

**ANT. 4.** And they came † with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger, alleluia.

**ANT. 5.** And Jesus himself † was beginning about the age of thirty years: being, as it was supposed, the son of Joseph, alleluia.

**CHAPTER.** *Gen. xlix. 26.*

**T**HE blessings of thy father are strengthened with the blessings of his fathers: † until the Desire of the everlasting hills should come; \* May they be upon the head of Joseph, and upon the crown of the Nazarite among his brethren.

**SHORT R.** I do give praise unto thy name, \* Alleluia, alleluia. **I DO** give. **V.** For thou art my defender and helper. **ALLELUIA. GLORY** be. **I DO** give.

**HYMN.** *Caelitum Joseph decus.*  
**J**OSEPH, whose glory fills the Church with praises,  
Spouse of the Virgin, Jesu's foster-father,  
From the Almighty came thy high vocation,  
Best of protectors.

**WHEN** the Redeemer, whom the Prophets' chorus  
Long had predicted, lay within the manger,

Glad was thy spirit, whilst in adoration  
Lowly thou adorest.

**HE** who as Monarch reigns o'er all crea-  
tion,  
Feared in the deepest, worshipped in the  
highest,  
Veiling his Godhead, rendered meek sub-  
jection,  
Unto thy bidding.

**PR**AISE we with fervour God the One  
and Trinal,  
Who thee hath given grace and honour  
wondrous;  
O may he grant us, hearing thy petition,  
Joys everlasting! Amen.

**¶** Thou hast given me the pro-  
tection of thy salvation, alleluia. **℞**  
And thy right hand hath held me up,  
alleluia.

**BEN. ANT.** Joseph, thou son of Da-  
vid, † fear not to take unto thee Mary  
thy wife, for that which is conceived  
in her is of the Holy Ghost, alleluia.

#### **COLLECT.**

**O** GOD, who in thine inef-  
fable providence vouchsafed to  
choose blessed Joseph as the spouse  
of thy holy Mother: grant, we beseech  
thee; that we may be worthy to have  
him as our intercessor in heaven, whom  
we venerate as our protector here upon  
earth. Who with God ... livest.

#### **AT PRIME**

**ANT. 1.** And Jacob.

**Short Lesson,** Joseph is a growing son, as at  
None.

#### **AT TERCE**

**ANT. 2.** The Angel Gabriel.

**Chapter** as at Lauds.

**¶** I do give praise unto thy name,  
alleluia. **℞** For thou art my defender  
and helper, alleluia.

#### **AT SEXT**

**ANT. 3.** Joseph went up.

**CHAPTER.** *Gen. xlix. 25.*

**T**HE God of thy father shall help  
thee, † and the Almighty shall  
bless thee, \* with the blessings of  
heaven above.

**¶** The righteous shall blossom as  
the lily, alleluia. **℞** He shall flourish  
for ever before the Lord, alleluia.

#### **AT NONE**

**ANT. 5.** And Jesus himself.

**CHAPTER.** *Gen. xlix. 22.*

**J**OSEPH is a growing son, † a  
growing son and comely to be-  
hold; \* the daughters run to and fro  
upon the wall.

**¶** Such as are planted in the house  
of the Lord, alleluia. **℞** Shall flourish  
in the courts of the house of our God,  
alleluia.

#### **AT II VESPERS**

*All as at I Vespers, above, except:*

**¶** I sat down under his shadow,  
whom I desired, alleluia. **℞** And his  
fruit was sweet to my palate, alleluia.

**MAG. ANT.** Son, † why hast thou  
thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father  
and I have sought thee sorrowing,  
alleluia.