

SAINT JOSEPH-a few insights!

Whenever I go on holidays I often just go to a church as a parishioner and then hope that no one notices me or asks me to be a warden or to bring up the offertory gifts.

While on one holiday after Mass a parishioner told me about a church where at the entrance in the foyer there was a life size bronze statue of Saint Joseph. In front of him was an 8- or 9-year-old Jesus waving his arms in animated conversation. The sculptor brilliantly conveyed Joseph looking at the boy with a loving, respectful gaze in his eyes. It is no surprise that the parish is named *Saint Joseph the Worker!*

Pope Francis has dedicated 2021 to Saint Joseph and in his brilliant apostolic letter *Patris Corde* he offers what I consider to be 2 valuable insights on him. The first insight is for people to remember that Saint Joseph is the key figure who stands at the crossroads of the Old and the New Testament. It's of value to remember that he is a direct descendent of King David. The second insight is to remember that throughout the scriptures unlike Mary and a number of the apostles Joseph is not recorded as ever saying anything. Yet he more than anyone lived so well the great words of his foster son; "*Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart.*" (Matthew Chapter 11 verse 29) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*