

Whilst St. Joseph is often portrayed as an older man, here he is depicted with dark hair and a dark beard, suggesting he was a younger man. His whole attention is focussed on the infant Jesus, whom he holds tenderly in his arms. St. Joseph's gaze is filled with parental love and devotion for the Divine Child God has entrusted to his care.



The lily is associated with St. Joseph through an ancient legend that he was so chosen to be the husband of Mary from among other men by the blossoming of his staff like a lily. Likewise, the biblical passage, "The just man shall blossom like the lily" (Hosea 14:5) is applied to St. Joseph in the liturgy of the Church for his feast day on 19 March.

St. Joseph's outer garment is the traditional colours of brown and green that are used in many images of St. Joseph. Brown is the colour most poor working men wore in Bible times whilst the colour green symbolizes faithfulness to God's call.

Have you noticed that the hand of the Infant Jesus is damaged? Some of his fingers are missing!

As you spend time before the statue of St Joseph and the Infant Jesus, you may wish to reflect on the words of St. Teresa of Avila:

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he
looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he
walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which
he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet, yours are the eyes,
you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth
but yours.

St. Joseph's inner garment is purple, the colour of royalty. It reminds us that despite his humble work and means, he came from a royal lineage: he was 'Joseph, of the House of David.' (Luke 1:26)