

## **YEAR OF ST JOSEPH - APRIL**

### **ST JOSEPH: PAPAL NAMES**

Pope Francis's contribution is, so to speak, the last piece of the mosaic the Church has created throughout the centuries to express its admiration and to explain the merits of this great soul sculpted through silence.

Various Popes have also contributed to this narrative with heartfelt words and gestures. Beginning in the 15th century, Pope Sixtus V fixed 19 March as the date on which his feast is celebrated. From Pius IX on, and especially during the pontificates of the 20th century, the Church's magisterium cast new light on this man wrapped in shadow.

His name, however, has never been chosen by a Pope, even if in the last decades, his name has recurred frequently in the baptismal names of various popes: Popes Pius X (Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto), John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli), John Paul II (Karol Józef Wojtyła), Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger). Pope Francis is not named Joseph, but he initiated his ministry by celebrating Mass on 19 March: a different connection but the same proximity.

*“Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.”*