

## YEAR OF ST JOSEPH - JULY

### ST JOSEPH: THERE CAN NEVER BE A “POPE JOSEPH”

Four years later, the Church was guided by a man who would have wanted to choose the name “Pope Joseph”. He decided against it, however, saying that it was not a name used by the popes.

But his explanation betrays a nostalgia and reveals Pope John XXIII’s strong attachment to St Joseph. The revelation came during an audience on 19 March 1959 with a group of street cleaners. In a radio message on 1 May the following year, “Good Pope John” concluded with a prayer to St Joseph the Worker:

*Grant that those you protect understand that they are not alone in their work, but may they know how to find Jesus next to them, may they welcome Him with grace, and faithfully protect Him as you did. Grant that in every family, in every office, in every laboratory, wherever a Christian works, that they may all be sanctified in charity, in patience, in justice, trying to doing things well, so that the gifts of heavenly predilection might abundantly descend upon them.*

*“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.”*