

Prayers for the Tutu Mass on 1 May 2026

Let us pray for the Church and for God's world

and, inspired by the example of Joseph,

for grace to grow in faith and holiness

and to follow ever more closely in the way of Christ.

Joseph was the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born,

who is called the Messiah:

may we value our family life both at home and in the wider family of the Church.

We pray for all the members of this our far flung virtual congregation, the Friday Group, inspired by your servant Desmond Tutu, through whose powerful ministry we are still drawn together to this day.

Joseph was not afraid to take Mary as his wife

Even when he learned that the child conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit:

may we have no fear when we hear God's call to his service.

We pray for the advancement of the common weal on our vulnerable planet, so that all people may live in peace that is secure, with progress that is sustainable and prosperity that is equitably shared.

Joseph was a righteous man and unwilling to expose Mary to public disgrace:

may we, like Joseph, lead lives that are informed by integrity and accountability. May we be concerned for the reputation of others with responsiveness and openness our watchwords.

We pray for all those set in temporal authority over us, the politicians, the judges and the law enforcement officers

Joseph named the child Jesus,

the One who will save his people from their sins:

may we make known to others the salvation he came to bring.

We pray for those who have not heard the gospel of Christ and for all those called to spread that gospel.

Joseph protected the infant Jesus and his mother from the wrath of Herod:

may we always seek to shield those who are weak and vulnerable.

We pray for all who sorrow or are in need, sickness or any other adversity

Joseph took his family and returned to his native land:

we remember those who have died recently both known to us and strangers,

May we, with them and all the faithful departed,

be welcomed to the banquet of eternal life.

Almighty God,

we give you thanks for Joseph

and for the whole company of your saints in glory,

with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;

by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.