

MARCH 19, 2026 FATHER PETER TURRONE

It is a great honour and a privilege to offer the Mass, especially on this day, the Great Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the patron of Canada, and the patron of the Universal Church.

When we meditate on the fifth joyful mystery, we meditate on today's Gospel. So, Jesus was travelling with a caravan, going to the temple, and then after they had worshiped, so they had gone back. Now, Jesus would've either travelled usually with the women, and they would be a different caravan than that where the men were going. So, this helps us to understand how it's possible that Joseph thought that Jesus was with Mary, and Mary thought that Jesus was with Joseph.

So, in the midst of the confusion, when they stop after a day's journey, they find that he isn't with them. So, what happens? Well, they are travelling. There's three days of anxiety. So—of deep anxiety. They're worried about him.

So, imagine the thoughts that are going through the minds of the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph. You know, "The Father chose me to care for his Son, and yet, I've lost him."

So, when they get there, everything we hear is according to Mary's perspective. Because she would've recounted this to Saint Luke the Evangelist. So, the Lord is there, and he's asking questions, and he's listening, and everyone is amazed at what he's saying. And he's 12 years old. He's not yet an adult, but he's close to it. At least according to Jewish tradition.

So, Our Lady goes to him, and says, "You know, Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." So, Mary acknowledges that Joseph is the adoptive, but the real

father of Jesus. And this explains to us how Jesus, again, fulfils the prophecy that he would be seated on the eternal throne of David.

Because Joseph is the great patriarch. He is the heir of the kingdom of David. Even though he's materially poor, he's still in line of that inheritance. So, by taking Jesus as his own son, by marrying the Virgin Mary, what happens is that now he transfers everything that belongs by rights to him, now to Christ.

The answer that Jesus gives is quite interesting. 'Cause he says, "Why were you looking for me?" He wasn't being difficult. He was asking a question with a deep innocence. He says, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

So what we see here is that, even though Jesus begins his public ministry at 30 years of age, already, as a little boy, right, as this child of 12, he already has a full understanding of his mission. Even though he hasn't received the Holy Spirit as he's going to receive at his baptism, again, at 30, when he goes off. But he already knows his purpose. And he wants to spend all his time with his heavenly Father.

So you see that there's this shift, so now he's cognizant of the fact that he is the only—the Son of the most high, but he still has Joseph as his adopted father, and Mary as a mother.

So, they are meditating, and they don't completely understand in what's happening. But you can imagine the flashes that they're having, all the way back to when Simeon spoke to them at the temple during the Presentation.

So, they have to adjust to the fact that Jesus is now changing inwardly. Right, he's now moving in another direction. And the challenge for

Joseph and for the Virgin Mary, is that they have to start to learn to let him go.

And this is the challenge for all parents. We can forget, in our daily lives, that every child is a gift from God. The child doesn't belong to the parents. Yes, it comes from the parents, generated from the love between the father and the mother. Absolutely. But the child, even though, yes, is from the parents, is ultimately the gift from God.

And therefore, each mother, each father, has to learn to let go of the child. And to teach the child, as well as Joseph did, and Mary, that the child could put God, the Father, and the will of God, at the centre of their lives.

It's not an easy thing. And this is—Saint Joseph did such an incredible job of doing this, in his mission.

So, now how does this apply to us? Well there are many parents that are suffering. They wish that their children, rather, would spend all their day in church, seeking the will of God. Rather they're lost and going to different places, except the church.

Turn to Joseph. Go to Joseph. He will help.

Perhaps, maybe, you're devout, but you see your child has a vocation. But you feel like you don't want them to do this. You can be an obstacle to them, to God's will. You don't want to do that. Go to Joseph. Pray to him, and ask that he reveal to your children and to yourself what is it that they're looking for. What the reason why God created them. Pray to them.

And the third thing. Well, perhaps this isn't an issue for us, but maybe inside we feel like we don't have that relationship with Jesus that we had

before. We've lost the sense of the presence of God. Right, and it can not only be three days, or 50 years, like Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Go to Joseph, ask that he can help us to grow in faith, and trust in the Lord. And he will help us. Every time I've turned to him, he's never failed me. He's a good father, and he loves us. And he will provide. He will provide a way.

So I encourage you, go to Joseph, pray. One time I prayed a 30-day devotion to Saint Joseph, it was called a holy cloak devotion. I was at the Newman Centre, we had to restore the church, we didn't have any money. At the end of the 30-days, or shortly thereafter, I got a phone call saying you've received a full estate to pay for the entire project.

At the end of it, I found this beautiful statue in Quebec, and had it mounted on the wall. He loves us because he loves his Son, and he wants us to be as close as possible. So go to Joseph and pray to him, and he will lead you to Jesus.