

Fathers' Day- September 3 2023

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of First Nations peoples across the nation. We acknowledge the deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Context- Father's Day

Similar to Mother's Day, Father's Day is not an official liturgical celebration within the Church, yet many parishes take the time to honour and pray for fathers and father figures on this day. In Australia, we observe Father's Day in September, however, many other countries celebrate it in June. In Church tradition, fathers have typically been celebrated on the Feast of St Joseph in March when we take the time to celebrate the earthly father of Jesus and call to mind our own fathers. Father's Day can be a difficult day for many through a variety of circumstances and the Church holds all those and the difficulty they face in her prayers as well. We also acknowledge our spiritual fathers who faithfully serve in our parishes and religious orders and guide us on our journeys in Christ.

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-51

See how your father and I have been in sorrow seeking you.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When

they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it.

They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journeying that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the

Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them

questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him,

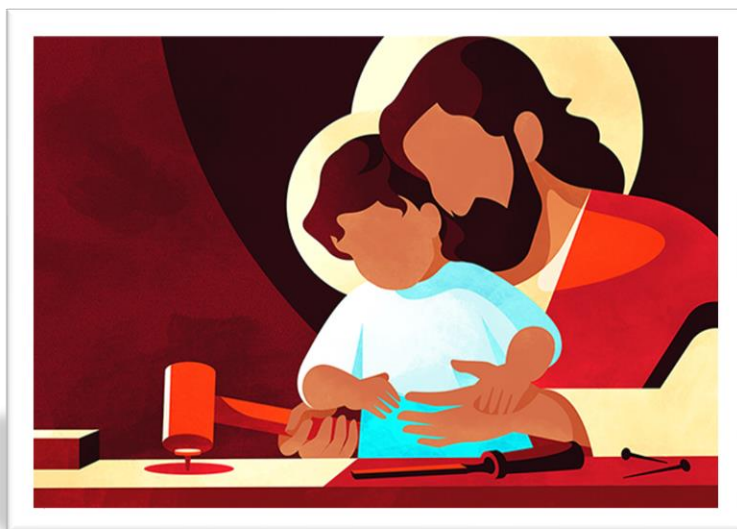
'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.'

'Why were you looking for me?' he replied, 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?'

But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Father's Day artwork, Joseph, and Jesus, Hallow.com

Reflection by Kirby Will Project Officer Identity and Outreach.

This scripture is one of the Gospel options for the Feast of St Joseph and is one of the few childhood stories of Jesus in the Gospels. Whilst this passage is for the Feast of St Joseph, we do not hear Joseph's perspective- in fact, we never do in the Gospels- yet we can still learn from his example as a father in this passage. Firstly, we know that Joseph made every effort to ensure his family participated in their religious traditions. It tells us that every year they

went to Jerusalem for Passover to partake in such traditions, and this reminds us of the important role fathers have in establishing and maintaining family traditions whether they be religious or otherwise. Mary and Joseph are faced with a situation that many parents inevitably face, and experience anxiety at the thought of Jesus missing. In this instance, Joseph shows us that fatherhood does not always go to plan!

Lastly, this passage reminds us that while we have an earthly father, we should not forget our Father in Heaven who will always provide us comfort and shelter in his 'house.'

Prayer: [A Litany for Father's Day](#)- Mothering Spirit

God of love,

Today we ask your blessing on all who give their lives with a father's love.

Bless new fathers and wise grandfathers.

Bless loving uncles and caring godfathers.

Bless fathers who await the birth of their child with joy.

Bless men who did not expect or want to become fathers.

Bless men who embrace fatherhood through adoption or foster parenting, step-parenting or single parenthood.

Bless men still waiting and hoping to become fathers.

Bless fathers whose work takes them away from their children.

Bless fathers whose work is with their children.

Bless fathers whose lives are shaped by war, poverty, or violence.

Bless fathers who work for peace, freedom, and justice.

Bless teachers and mentors who serve as father figures.

Bless pastors and ministers who lead as loving parents.

Bless men who are separated from their children, by force or choice.

Bless families without fathers and all who love in abundance in their absence.

Bless fathers who have lost a child.

Bless children who have lost their father.

Bless all whose fathers were loving.

Bless all whose fathers failed to meet their needs for love.

Bless all who celebrate today.

Bless all who struggle today.

In the name of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we pray.

Amen.

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Father's Day by Ronald Raab, CSC.

Call to Action:

- Choose one or two activities from the Catholic Weekly's [20 Things to do this Father's Day](#).
- Make [Father's Day Cookies](#) with, or for your dad.
- Explore these [ideas](#) on how to acknowledge your parish priest for Father's Day.

