

INTRODUCTION

Good evening/morning and Happy Fathers Day! Welcome to St Joseph's Church on the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. We extend a special welcome to all visitors to our church today.

We deeply respect this land and its traditional custodians, the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and we re-commit ourselves to the ongoing safeguarding of the young and vulnerable in our community.

In today's readings we hear about conflicts within societies, communities and families. These readings teach us that the basis of reconciliation is the love and respect we show to one another through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today/Tomorrow we celebrate Father's Day. We remember our fathers, our grandfathers and all the father figures in our lives. We give thanks for them, both those who are still with us and those now with God. You are invited to join in the entrance procession, following Father up to the altar, where you will place either a flower or a sprig of rosemary in a bowl to acknowledge your own father's love and devotion.

[FOLLOWING DIRECTLY BEHIND THE PRIEST DURING THE OPENING HYMN ALL WHO WISH TO MAY COME FORWARD WITH A FLOWER OR ROSEMARY]

Our celebrant today is

Please stand for our entrance hymn:

FIRST READING

The prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9

In this reading, the prophet Ezekiel implies that the one who repents of wickedness will be saved by God's mercy.

(Commentator pause after first reading)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

On the Bulletin if not sung

(Commentator pause after psalm)

SECOND READING

Letter of St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10

In this reading St Paul teaches the Romans how they should treat one another, that is, to love their neighbour as themselves. Love is the greatest commandment of all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

On the Bulletin if not sung

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

CELEBRANT: Dear friends, Conscious that each person is precious in the eyes of the Lord, and today especially fathers, let us place our prayers before God who is kind and merciful.

1. May Pope Leo, whom we honour with the title, Holy Father, continue to be a strong voice for the dignity of every person, a champion for peace, dedicated to the unity of the Church. Let us pray to the Lord

2. May this 'Season of Creation', which runs through September, unite us in the prayer intention of Pope Leo this month: *"For a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it."* Let us pray to the Lord.

3. May fathers and father-figures receive blessings from God this day, be confident in their role, receive respect from their children, and be supported in their needs. Let us pray to the Lord.

4. For fathers who live in the distressing situations of war, refugee camps and prisons, or unable to care for their families because of poverty, sickness or separation, that our prayer will sustain them in hope. Let us pray to the Lord.

5. May the people on the border of Nepal and Tibet, distraught by the glacial ice, rock and mud flood, be sustained in their need and receive the international support so urgently needed. Let us pray to the Lord.

6. May the violence consuming Haiti through gang violence, the attacks upon Christian and Muslim Palestinians in the Occupied West Bank, the poverty inflicted upon the people of Gaza, and the relentless war between Ukraine and Russia come to an end so that peace becomes possible. Let us pray to the Lord.

7. May all departed fathers across the world, and all who died in the Nepal-Tibet tragedy, enter the Father's eternal home, along with.....who have died recently and the following whose anniversaries occur at this time. Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Almighty God, who sent your Son among us as the source of reconciliation, give us the grace to be at peace in our families and communities, in our nation and across the globe. Through Christ our Lord.

FINAL BLESSING FOR FATHERS' DAY

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things.

Bless these men, our fathers and grandfathers, that they may be strengthened in their vocation as Christian fathers.

Amen.

May the example of their faith and love shine forth, that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Amen.

Bless those who mourn the loss of fathers who have died, that their memory may live on and continues to nurture us.

Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us all who are sons and daughters, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.