

## A Prayer for all Fathers and Priests

God our father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation, may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers, who have supported and challenged us; may they continue to lead in strong and gentle ways.

We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering, may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

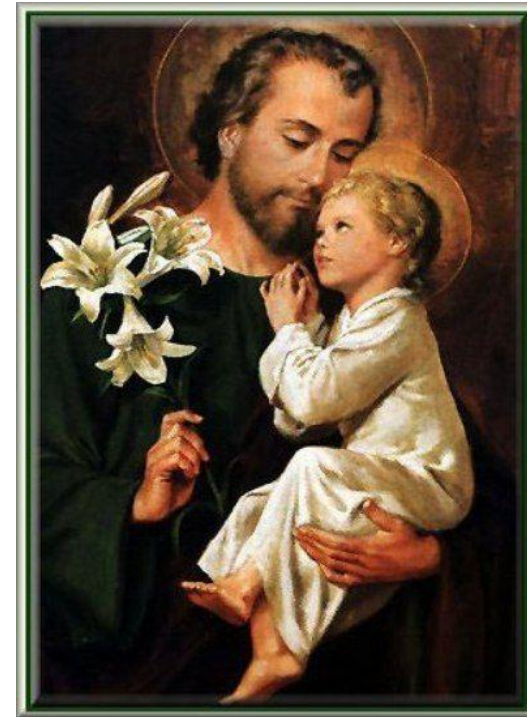
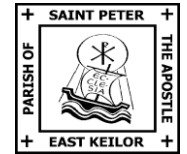
Most importantly, we pray for all our Priests, our spiritual fathers who guide, teach us and lead us to You and who feed and nourish us with Your Sacraments.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

**Amen.**

  
**Happy Father's Day!**  


## ST PETER'S PARISH KEILOR EAST



**Psalm 103:13:** *"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him."*

## **A Father's Day Message:**

Happy Father's Day to all the wonderful Fathers and Grandfathers or Step-Fathers in our Parish. Four months ago, we observed Mother's Day and offered Mass for our mums. Today, on this Father's Day, we are doing the same – offering our dads, living or dead, and invoking our Heavenly Father's blessings on them. This is definitely going to be a different Father's day in lockdown but please stay strong knowing that you are still surrounded by the love of your family and the best days are yet to come. May God continue to bless you all in a special way!

As we celebrate Father's Day, I invite you all to meditate upon the graciousness and mercy of God our Father and thank Him for giving us generous and kind fathers who dedicate and sacrifice their time, energy and resource to make us strong, wonderful and responsible citizens in the world.

I asked a few of the children in our Parish to share with me why they think their dads are special and here are their responses.

**Joseph:** “My dad is special because he helps me with anything I need help with.”

**Ella:** “My dad is special because he is the best dad in the whole world.”

**Patrick:** “My Dad is special because he reads me a book every night before bed.”

**Mia:** “My dad is special because he carries me on his shoulders and I can see the whole world.”

I also asked a couple of dads to share their experience of being a dad and here is what one dad shared.

**Tom:** “For me being a father is a wonderful and fulfilling vocation. I have been blessed to have three children who now range in ages from 47 to 40 years of age. I often reflect on my experiences with them as they were growing up and delight in who they are today as caring individuals who are wonderful parents to our seven grandchildren. I am very proud and humble to be their father and grandfather to their gorgeous children.”

As a priest I have often been called Father, and I have been called Padre (which means the same thing), but I believe that there is nothing as wonderful as how it feels to be called ‘Daddy’ by your children – to carry them on your shoulders, to hear their stories and adventures, to read them a book and to contribute to their happiness.

Nonetheless, particularly in these days of being physically distant from you, I feel a deep connection, a love and a real affection towards all of you and this makes me wonder if I am a father (with a small f) because of this very special bond of love. I feel overwhelmed by your love and perhaps this is what it feels to be loved unconditionally. Thank you for this unconditional love, which reflects the love of God our Father.

So, let's celebrate Father's Day, honouring those fathers who have shown us something of God's love, praying for fathers to be given strength in their crucial role and remembering that God, who is our Father in heaven, loves us more than we can grasp. May God continue to bless you all in a special way. Happy Fathers Day!

**Father Arockia Sebastian**  
**6 September 2020**