

Fathers' Day

Reflection:

Fathers play a significant role in the lives of their children. Be they living or dead, present or absent, a father profoundly shapes the life of his child and who that child becomes. Traditionally fathers are attributed with some of the God-like qualities such as loving us, protecting us, guiding us, supporting us, being a strong and stable influence and providing for our most basic needs. On this occasion we pause to reflect on the gift of our own father and to honour and affirm the place of human fatherhood in our own family, our society and our world.



Artwork by Sandra Dillon

Take some quiet time to consider the goodness of your own father.

Ritual:

In whatever way Fathers' Day is celebrated in your family, take some time to thank and bless your father. Have a family gathering with a special meal of thanksgiving for your father. During this celebration invite each family member to share a significant memory or a special quality of your father. Encircle your father (or a photograph of your deceased father) and light a candle for this ritual. Place your hands upon your father's shoulders or head as you pray a blessing such as the following:

All: We ask our God to bless you, our father/ Dad/ Grandad, and to help you to be the person God wants you to be. You love us and care for us. God bless you, Dad/Grandad.

Father's response: Amen.

All: You want what is best for us. God bless you, Dad/Grandad.

Father's response: Amen.

All: You protect us and comfort us. God bless you, Dad/Grandad.

Father's response: Amen.

All: You teach us important lessons about life. God bless you, Dad/Grandad.

Prayer: God who is like a Father to us, we remember and celebrate the gift of our own father. To us he is unique in all the world; a holy creation of yours. We hold him before you to bless and protect. Be for him a source of both strength and gentleness. On this special day for fathers, we pray that we might come to know and love you, our God, more deeply as your children.

All: Amen.

A prayer for absent Fathers:

We remember our father who is no longer with us...

Bring us deep peace in our loss and grief. Give us a grateful heart for good memories of this special man. Be our healing where we struggle to reconcile any differences or difficulties we may have experienced in our relationship with him. On this special day for fathers, we pray that we might come to know and love you, our God, more deeply as your children. Amen.