

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, YEAR B

	<p>Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September</p> <p>An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle</p> <p>We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.</p>	<p>Vox Episcopi - The Voice of the Bishop</p> <p>My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, Over the past few weeks, I have heard and seen some of the struggles and worries that are being shouldered in our community of the Church. I have been asked why I don't speak out more and defend the Church, especially with reference to the closure of our church buildings.</p> <p><i>(To read the full message go to our website or facebook page)</i></p>	
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First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7	Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10 R.v.1	Second Reading James 2:1-5	Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23	Gospel Mark 7:31-37
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Reflection by Fr Manoj Manuel

Happy Father's Day
First Sunday of September is celebrated as Father's Day every year. This is also the best season of the year, Spring! Spring brings newness. Nature is in its optimal beauty during Spring. And the nature at its best invites us to reflect our own lives too, so to say, an inward journey. Am I in my optimal function and flourishing? When I ask this question, we might tend to focus on material prosperity, and plans to achieve more of it might flood our minds. Good! But I would like to take your attention to the realm of virtuous behaviour that springs forth from our faith-filled spirituality. Let me bring to mind the common virtues found in every parent, especially fathers in our families. They are heroes of selfless love and perfect example of sacrificial care. They stand in place of God our creator and caretaker. They provide for the family together with the mother of the family and help the members of the family to progress from dependence to independence. Meanwhile, they melt like a lighted candle, for the wellbeing and happiness of everyone else.

Father's Day also puts forward certain challenges towards returning back a little of all that we receive from our own father. Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane asked his disciples to keep awake a little time with him. He needed the friendship and company of his disciples. When God created human beings, he knew how important the aspect of friendship was, that we offer each other. May be your parent (father or mother) is going through that longing to get your friendship in simple means of your valuable presence and kind words and deeds of appreciation. Can you give a little time of yours every day to your father (and mother). That hug when you are physically near, and that virtual hug via a phone call when you are at distance could help your father (mother) to go through the Gethsemane experience of life. Happy Father's Day! God bless you fathers!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all our dads!

May God bless you all and prayers for those dads who are no longer with us

(See Father's Day Blessing on page 2)

Safeguarding—NSW Reportable Conduct Scheme

Are you a member of clergy or a spiritual leader in a religious body? Does the religious body require you to hold a Working with Children Check - whether as an employee or volunteer? If the answer is yes – you fall under the Reportable Conduct Scheme in NSW.

Join the Director and senior staff of the NSW Reportable Conduct Scheme for a 3 hour session to get expert and tailored information that will help your organisation understand its legal obligations.

The session will cover how the reportable conduct scheme relates to your daily work and will include sector-specific data insights and case study examples, information about how to strengthen investigations and a question and answer session.

Date: 15 October 2021—9.30am-12.30pm

To register go to link below:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nsw-reportable-conduct-scheme-for-religious-bodies-registration-167020766609>

Safeguarding Awareness Month
September 2021

Participation of Children & Young People in Catholic Communities

Living the Journey of being a Dad in the world of today and beyond.

By Wesley Leverton

Being a dad can be wonderful, joyous and rewarding whilst also being stressful, terrifying and full of fear. I became a dad nearly 20 years ago with the arrival of the first of our three children. The arrival of each of our sons now aged 19, 17 and 13 was a joyous occasion celebrated with family and friends. It was the start of a journey that upon reflection I was under prepared for, but one that has taught me much about myself.

We like to think that children won't change us but this is in my view a misconception. Being a dad or mum comes with being directly responsible for another person and their welfare. For me this responsibility changed my personal outlook to being more outer focused and brought a greater awareness of the level of personal risk in my life. In order to understand the journey we need to look back to late 1980's to the early 2000's. At this time I was an extremely active and busy person who worked full time, assisted charitable organisations and was a youth leader with Scouts NSW. Risk was furthest from my mind as I undertook a range of activities that life insurance companies won't cover including: canyoning, caving, climbing, ski-ing, cycling and bushwalking.

When our sons were young my journey as a dad involved significant life changes, including stopping doing many things I enjoyed. You just can't take a young child abseiling down a 50m waterfall in freezing cold water. I was used to the adrenaline rush of participating in high risk activities so supervising a child in the park did not fulfil that personal need. In order to maintain my personal mental health, I have found that some outdoor recreation outlet must be programmed into life. In the early years I really struggled with the loss of these activities, but I have found a balance and now find I can share my passion for the outdoors with my sons.

My sons are growing up way too quickly, but I have continued to be involved in my children's lives, sometime by just being there and other by being actively involved but always challenging them to be the best person they can be. Being there is about presence and it is important that as a dad I am present in my son's lives attending their concerts, school activities, sports activities, significant events and achievements. My active involvement in my son's lives has seen me coaching my son's soccer teams (never played soccer before), assisting as a Cub Scout Leader and assisting with AFL training (never played this game either). These things have challenged me to learn skills, be patient and let the young people learn by doing. Some of the best times with my sons has been the shared experiences and there have been too many of these to list here but include walks, bike rides, camps, fishing trips, abseiling and travel. Some of the most wonderful and memorable experiences shared with my sons and wife include:

- Central Australia 2015 - we shared a magical night at Chambers Pillar. We were the only people there, but it was a special night spent around a small fire singing songs.
- Family holidays camping by the beach.
- New Zealand - Zip lining in Auckland and sledging in Rotorua.

As dad it is important to develop my son's moral and ethical character. It is the standard that I hold all of my sons to account on and the principles guide how they should carry themselves in life. These are valid principles today and will be in the world beyond today.

These principles are:

- **Honesty / Truth** – be honest and truthful in all actions and communications.
- **Integrity** – This is about trust which must be earned and is not given. I make my son's aware that there must be consistency between thoughts, words and action. They must also be personally accountable for their actions and decisions.
- **Promise keeping** – As a dad if you say you will do something then make every effort to do it. With so many competing commitments this is probably one of the most difficult, but we should make the upmost attempts to follow through. I also hold my sons to account on this principle, for example when they wanted to drop out of a sport, they were not enjoying but had made a commitment to the team, thus they were made to complete the season.
- **Fairness** – treating my sons the same and ensuring they receive the same opportunities and value (time and money).
- **Caring** – demonstrate compassion for others. I have been involved in assisting Stepping Stone House a homeless youth organisation for many years through fundraising and also running outdoor education activities. My son's have also assisted this organisation thus building a greater awareness of others with needs in our community.
- **Respect** – treat everyone with courteousness and equality. I once sent a reply back to my son saying – "I will not respond to future emails unless you write 'Dear Dad' at the top, ask and not demand what you require, say thank you and let me know who it is from". Respect starts at home and includes how we talk to each other and talk about others.
- **Excellence** – I expect all of my sons to try their best in all they do and endeavour to increase their proficiency. They may never be the best, but they will always be the best that they can be.

In today's world there are some things that can influence our lives, what we let our children do and influences how we take advantage of opportunities. As a 21 year old I was told by an emergency department doctor, who when finding my temperature was 43C, announced I should have been dead. These experiences stay with us and crystallize the thought that you should take advantage of every opportunity. I would like to address some things in today's world that can prevent the taking of opportunities:

Awareness & Fear - Fear stems from our level of awareness about our knowledge.

- What we know represents just 1% of what there is to know.
- What you know you don't know another 4%.
- What you don't know that you don't know represents 95%.

Hence, we have fears which can lead us to stay in our comfort zone. Further we fear for our children. Some of those fears include, will they:

- fall off that swing
- crash their bike and get injured
- get a good job
- be able to afford a house
- get sick
- etc.

Fear leads us to protect our children and wrap them in protective layers based on our perceived Comfort Zone. We have to let go of fear and let our children move into the growth zone to achieve success.

Why do children climb trees? Because they have no fear, 95% of things to do with tree climbing they don't even know yet. They learn what they can do by trying. I reflect on when my sons started to walk and when you think back to that time they tried to stand and fell down and tried again. There was no fear about the fall.

Do I still fear for my children? Absolutely, however I do not let this fear rule my life or theirs.

Influence - As dads we are a part of the circle of influence for our children. Whilst our children rely on us for the basic needs of life we need to allow them space to grow and fail. At the end of the day it is about empowering our children to be successful. Our influence is the cause and what we see as the result is the effect.

Accountability – We hold our children accountable for their school work, their manners, their behaviour, their honesty and their achievements. As fathers we need to hold ourselves to account as well. Do we use excuses, blame, denial for not getting out and sharing life with our children? I will admit I have told my children I am too busy to go outside and play a game with them. However, we are role models and need to demonstrate ownership, accountability and responsibility for being present in our children's lives, sharing activities with them assisting them to grow.

Failure to Participate – Life is about participation. We only really experience failure if we fail to participate. Participation is about getting out of your comfort zone, increasing your level of awareness, increasing your circle of influence, leading to growth and success. Computers, computer games, online apps and similar are a barrier to participation and the biggest challenge we face as dads.

As a dad I encourage my sons to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible. The activities we undertake may be successful or unsuccessful, but we must not fear failure as the challenges faced build resilience to deal with whatever life throws at us.

I have learnt that being a dad is nothing to be feared and whilst I did not get it all correct, I did learn a lot in the process. I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy the challenges and opportunities of being a dad. I am a proud father who is watching his children grow into wonderful citizens of our community. In the world beyond today I see a world of opportunities, so park your fears and go and participate.

Why I became a Catechist—by Katherine Co-Elliott

Meet your children's Catechists

Katherine Co-Elliott: I started more than 5 years ago and have been thinking about becoming a Catechist for a bit. My mindset at the time was: I have grown up and was educated in Catholic schools and have listened to lots of teachings and Bible verses, which is all great, but I thought it was time to show my faith in action. As a baptised Catholic, we are all called to evangelise. Catechism, for me is my form of evangelisation. I want to start evangelising the children. I strongly feel that they need to be better equipped, not just with general knowledge like what they learn in school, but also spiritual knowledge, for them to use as a guide as they navigate life choices when they are older and out in the world.

At Waitara Public Primary School, I realised after a few sessions and classroom engagements, that a few of my students' families are not Catholic. It is absolutely wonderful and inspiring to think that in spite of having no religion, these parents feel that it is important for their kids to learn the faith and to learn who Jesus is. And in turn, I hope these children will share what they learn in the classroom back to their families. It does fulfil the aim of evangelisation, without the need to travel far and wide, but to do it within our local community.



FATHER'S DAY ZOOM LITURGY Thank you to all those who participated in our Father's Day Zoom Liturgy last Thursday. Our special gratitude to Fiona Brown and our Boundless Youth Team for bringing it all together. Happy Father's Day to each of you and your families too. The gift card was won by Ben Meldrum. Congratulations!

BLESSING OF FATHERS

Loving God, we give thanks today for our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and all father-figures who nurture and guide us with wisdom as their children.

We pray today for all fathers around the world; fathers who cannot feed their children, fathers who are homeless or without a homeland; fathers who must teach their children about the dangers of bombs and bullets. Help us create a world where parents can raise their children in peace and plenty.

Grant all fathers the courage of St Joseph, who despite the social stigma of his time, remained faithfully by Mary's side, guiding and protecting the child Jesus from those who would harm him.

May all fathers watch over their children as Joseph did, that they may flourish and attain 'life to the full'.

We pray for God's wisdom, Blessing and guidance in the lives of all fathers today and every day. Amen

BAY CONNECT Evangelisation Broken Bay has launched a new program of online events called Bay Connect. The program provides an online program of regular activities commencing on 30 August, to converse, reflect and connect spiritually online during this challenging time. The program commences on Monday, 30 August. To find out more and register online, visit the Bay Connect page on the Diocese of Broken Bay website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/covid-19-updates/prayer-resources/bay-connect>



COVID Update Our Church buildings are closed but our livestreaming service is still available from our Cathedral on Sunday mornings at 9.30AM as well as weekdays at 7AM.

PASTORAL WORKS BROKEN BAY

Pastoral Works Broken Bay is the pastoral charity of the Catholic community in Broken Bay. Previously known as the Charitable Works Fund (CWF), it was renamed in July 2021 to better reflect the authentic, life-giving pastoral work you are helping to support, and provide a name that uniquely connects it to our Diocese. Thank you for helping to renew and rebuild lives. Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or wider community.



All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and allocated to your Parish contribution for Pastoral Works Broken Bay.

At this time, due to COVID-19, we sincerely appreciate any support that might be afforded – no matter how big or how small. Our ministries continue to operate and provide vital services. We encourage donations through digital means, at your parish websites or at <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks>

May I ask you to pray for those who are sick, those who are struck with the virus, those tested positive, those in isolation, and those vaccinated for COVID-19.

We remember those who died recently –

Herminia 'Minnie' Rozan • Fr Paul Purcell • June D'Souza • Carmen Elaine Gale • Patricia Paxton

Anniversaries – Guido Linssen • June Rodricks • Tim Dalton • Joseph Mifsud

We pray for the sick – John Bolster • Lisa Hogarth

NSW QR Codes for those who do not have a mobile phone to scan the QR Codes electronically, please note that QR code cards are available from the RMS.

CATECHIST CORNER

Recruiting for new Catechists/ Assistants/ assist the Co-ordinator

'In NSW, there are more than 2000 schools with 250000 children across Special Religious Education. This is an opportunity too good to miss. Because public schools in our state are required to offer Scripture **if there are teachers available**. So, some children who's parents choose SRE are still missing out if there are no teachers available.'

In our Parish, for next year (training starts this year), we are looking for 10 more Scripture teachers over 5 schools to answer God's call and respond to the honour of being a Catechist.

Please watch this **recruitment video** for more info:

<https://vimeo.com/338140377>

and contact Louise Spencer (CCD Co-ordinator): spencerxyz2427@gmail.com

Zoom meeting

All Parishioners are welcome. COME AND JOIN US for a prayer and catch up on Wed, 8 Sept at 11am on <https://bbcatholic.zoom.us/j/97234565129?pwd=TmpmQnNic1U1citIRC9SY2JtZzZ6Zz09>.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

In the Wake of the tremendous difficulties currently being faced by those in Afghanistan and by those Afghans marooned here on temporary visas SJAB (Social Justice Around the Bay), St Vincent de Paul, Northern Sydney/Central Coast Regional Social Justice Committee and Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS) is holding a Webinar titled:

Hope Out of Horror—Seeking Refuge in Australia Thursday, September 23, 7pm-8pm

This is the chance to hear the Stories of those seeking Refuge and Asylum in Australia and to join a cry to Canberra to:

1. Offer Permanent Protection to all Refugees
2. Enable access to Family Reunion to Refugees
3. Offer a Safety Net, including Medical and Financial Assistance to those in need of refuge

Registration to this Event is essential

Please register your attendance clock on the link below and pass the link on. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/stories-of-hope-and-courage-seeking-refugee-in-australia-tickets-166888717647>

ONLINE PARISH GIVING

In light of the extraordinary circumstances, we are experiencing due to pandemic, please know that ONLINE Parish Giving is available. To donate, please click on the button below.

[Donate to our Parish](#)

1st Collection is used for the support of the Bishop and priests of the Diocese.

2nd Collection is used to meet Parish running costs, maintenance of Church, Presbytery, offices, other buildings and grounds. It is also used to pay for all our Ministries' expenses and staff salaries and superannuation.