

FATHER'S DAY & JOURNEYING WITH JESUS  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary time ~ 6 September 2020



Carl Bloch | Jesus Christ with the children | public domain

## CONGRATULATIONS

In this Season of Creation, we congratulate the Year Threes and the Years Ones on their outdoor liturgies in praise of God last week.

The [Season of Creation](#) is from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY

Today we celebrate Father's Day.  
We pray for our Dads and Grandfathers  
and those significant adults who have a fatherly influence in our lives.

It is a day of gratitude for many.  
A day of saying thanks.  
And a day of remembering.  
And for some, this day brings back terrible memories of abuse.

## RECONCILIATION

As we ponder today's Gospel Matthew 18:15-20,  
we see it in the context of the whole of Chapter 18  
- living as a church community.  
Reconciliation processes have steps or stages.

In being reconciled, we hear in the Gospel,

***"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."***

We are not alone.  
We are called to accompany Jesus, as Jesus is among us.

## POPE FRANCIS INSIGHTS

Let us pause and reflect on some of the insights of Pope Francis as he [addressed the executive committee of CELAM](#) (the Latin American Bishops Conference) some years ago.

Pope Francis did not seek from the church

*“a collection of programmes that fill agendas and waste precious energies”*

Instead he asked them to

*“place the mission of Jesus at the heart of the Church, making it the criterion for measuring the effectiveness of her structures, the results of her labours, the fruitfulness of her ministers and the joy they awaken. For without joy, we attract no one.”*

Pope Francis speaks of going with Jesus, not alone.

*“How greatly we need to be recollected, within and without! Our crowded schedules, the fragmentation of reality, the rapid pace of our lives: all these things might make us lose our focus and end up in a vacuum. Recovering unity is imperative. Where do we find unity? Always in Jesus. What makes the mission last is not the generosity and enthusiasm that burn in the heart of the missionary, even though these are always necessary. It is rather the companionship of Jesus in his Spirit. If we do not we set out with him on our mission, we quickly become lost and risk confusing our vain needs with his cause. ”*

## RETURNING TO THE GOSPEL | JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Let us return to the Gospel once more.

***“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”***

Last night at Mass, and again at early Mass, we reflected on a journey of a person with Jesus over some decades in central Europe.

It is a story that seemed improbable and unlikely. Yet it is true.

It is a story well-documented.

It is a story that gives confidence to respond anew to Jesus during this troubling and frightening COVID-19 Pandemic.

It is a story drawing us into the mystery of God and into love for people we encounter.

Without repeating the story again,  
we are called anew to journey with Jesus now.

### BLESSING

I now invite our fathers and foster fathers and grandfathers to please stand,  
and for all of us to extend a hand over you  
as we ask God to bless you on their journey with Jesus.

We ask God to bless you joyfully as companions of Jesus.  
We thank God for your faith and love,  
for your kindness and courage,  
for your example and wisdom.

Amen.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200906/mass.htm>

