

**THANKING OUR NEIGHBOUR**  
*7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20 FEBRUARY 2022*

**THANKING GOD FOR THOSE WHO SHARE OUR LIVES TODAY**

Today we begin by thanking people in our lives who make a difference.

We thank our families, our friends and our community.  
We thank those who share a common interest with us.  
It might be a hobby or a sport or music or activity or gardening or cooking or quilting or cars or woodwork or painting or a reading group or a group with whom we have outings. It could be so many things.

We take time to thank them this week, and to let them know that they are appreciated.

Let us pause and pray for them.

**[pause & pray]**



**THANKING GOD FOR THOSE WHO ARE RESTING IN GOD'S ETERNAL LOVE**

One of the people that I thank God for today, is a cousin who lived in New South Wales and who went home to God last weekend.

We would be in contact by phone or text for each Rugby League State of Origin game, and for each time the Reds (Queensland) and the Waratahs (NSW) played in Rugby Union. He was an avid "Tah" supporter.

Given the state rivalry, we both appreciated the games even more. And then when the Wallabies played, we'd be supporting them together.

During his yearly working visit to Brisbane, we would catch up for a meal and share family stories and faith and our interest in current affairs.

When relatives visited from overseas, I'd put them on the phone to him, and he would have them in prolonged laughter.

His life was devoted to keeping people safe, and was one of the multi-task group responsible for the security of the Sydney Olympics. In more recent years, with a change of profession, he trained organisations in security.

I thank God for him and his contributions to our nation's safety.

Let us pause and pray for whoever has made a difference to our lives, as they now rest in God's love forever.

**[pause & pray]**

## GOSPEL OF LUKE 6:27-38

In today's Gospel Jesus commands us

***'Do to others as you would have them do to you.'***

Jesus deepens that command as he says:

***'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.'***

*In our lives, are there people to whom we are not loving and merciful?*

Let us pray for those who have just come to mind in this reflection.

**[pause & pray]**

In his interactions with others, Jesus reveals what it means to love God.

He calls us to be merciful.

Jesus does not tell us to seek revenge.

He teaches us to love.

Jesus reveals that everyone is our neighbour.

## WAR

Pope Francis, in his 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 [Address to Participants in the Plenary Meeting of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches](#), drew our attention to a specific issue where the world community is lacking love and mercy, namely, the shame of humanity's current wars.

He challenges current humanity's tragic attachment to war.

We have achieved so much in science and other human endeavours,

yet Pope Francis says that humanity is *"going backward in bringing about peace."*

He tells us that

*"In this moment, there are numerous wars going on everywhere but like in the past,*

*the warnings of both Popes and men and women of good will are unheard.*

*It seems that the highest award for peace should be given to the wars:*

*it is such a contradiction. We have an attachment to war and this is tragic.*

*Humanity is proud of its advancement in science and thought,*

*in many beautiful things, but it is going backward in bringing about peace.*

*It is the champion in making war. This should make us all feel shameful.*

*We need to pray and ask pardon for this attitude."*

Amid the ongoing wars in the world today,

we are invited to pray earnestly for peace,

and to ask pardon for humanity's ongoing addiction to war.

**[pause & pray]**

As the tensions escalate on the borders of Ukraine,  
in love and mercy let us pray for peace.

## Prayer for Peace for Ukraine

We pray to you, *God all loving*,  
for the gift of peace in our world.  
At this time of rising tension and insecurity,  
we pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine.

We pray to you, *God all loving*,  
seeking lasting and peaceful solutions.  
Inspire the people of Ukraine  
and the peoples of its neighbouring countries  
in their search for peace.

You created the human family  
to live as brothers and sisters.  
As a family created by you,  
*God all loving*, we pray for peace.  
Amen

[printable version: <https://bit.ly/DayofPrayerUkraine26012022>]

We remember this week to thank people for the positive difference they make in our lives.  
Let us pray.

Father Gerry  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/022022.cfm>



*Let us pause and pray  
for whoever has made a  
difference to our lives,  
as they now rest in  
God's love forever.  
Amen*