

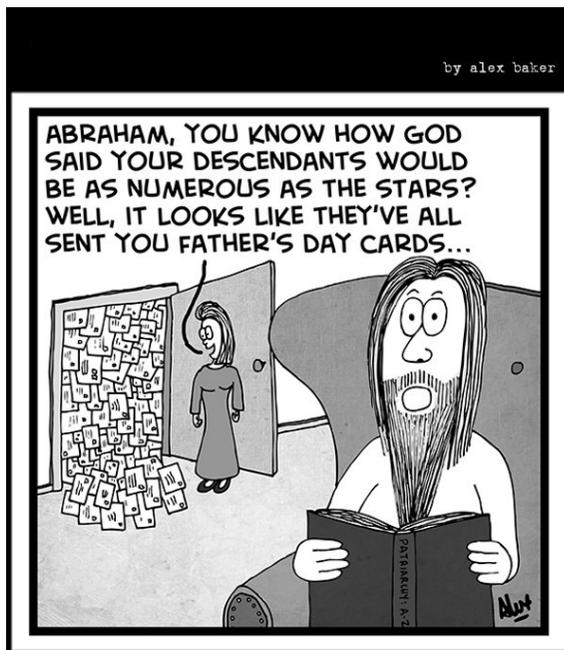
## Prayer Points

### Thanksgiving

- For the Godly men in our lives, especially our father's
- ### Petitions
- Peter, Summer, Sylvia, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, Julia & John and their families.
  - Those affected by COVID 19,
  - For our healthcare professionals (who are working ridiculous hours at the moment.)



## The Lighter Side of Life



## *Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter*

### **14th Sunday after Pentecost**

6th September, 2020

**Priest in Charge — Rev'd Jenny Brandon**

### **Contact Details**

Phone: 0488 433 023

Email: [otwayanglicans@gmail.com](mailto:otwayanglicans@gmail.com)

Web: [otwayanglicans.com](http://otwayanglicans.com)



**Anglican Parish of the  
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

Welcome to Spring! The thought of warmer weather brings a renewed sense of hope and joy. Also, Happy Father's Day. I do hope the men of the parish know how much we appreciate them and that you all have a lovely day.

I have some sad news, Annabel, Martin and James are moving to Perth at the end of the month. It has been a joy to have them as part of our parish family and to watch the children grow in the faith. We wish you all the very best for the future and please stay in touch!

AS you reflect on Father's day today, I trust it fills you with happy memories of the men in your life who have helped you grow in the faith and renews your appreciation and love of your heavenly father.

May the Lord bless you with peace and joy.  
Jenny

### Prayer of the Week

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the fathers and father-figures in this world and for the many ways you use them to lovingly guide others to Your heart. Bless them and give them great joy and peace. May they see You and know You in new ways. Show them how much you love them and care about them. Guide their steps, use their hands, and make them a blessing to others as you continue to fulfill your special purpose for their lives. **Amen.**

### Reading. Hebrews 11

### A Father's Day Reflection

In the Bible it is Abraham who is counted as the father of faith and he is revered in Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The word "faith" is an important component to remember because it means trust in God—being able to rely on that which is dependable. Abraham trusted God's assurance that his children would become a great nation. The

promise came at a point when he and his wife, Sarah, were elderly and childless. And yet Abraham believed that God could do what was foretold to him. He went forward in confidence that God could accomplish, through him, a blessing for all of the world.

Joseph of Galilee is an exemplary father in the Bible. He married Mary, despite the unusual circumstances of her pregnancy. He dared to be unconventional because he trusted that God was working through her and him. He was a righteous man who dared to take on the roles of husband and foster father. And as refugees from danger, after the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, it is clear that he protected his family by going beyond what was familiar to find a safe haven. We can learn much about fatherhood from Joseph.

Another father that captures the imagination is a man called Jairus. We read about him in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke (Mark 5:21-43). He was a man of importance whose daughter was dying and he came to Jesus, fell at his feet and begged Jesus to help his child. The actions of Jairus revealed his character. He trusted that God could help and it didn't matter that he had wealth and prestige. He humbled himself for the sake of his daughter.

A final father from the Bible that is impressive is the one who had two sons, one of whom went astray. This is, of course, the story told by Jesus of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). The father in the parable teaches his two sons powerful lessons of love: the one who went astray who discovered that his father's care came to him even when he had run away from it and the other who struggled to understand such extravagant love in the face of his brother's failures and his own fidelity. The father in the story, like God, never gave up on either of his children.

On Father's Day let us remember that we have been given a heritage of dedication and faithfulness from the fathers we encounter in the Bible and from those fathers who exemplify the best qualities of parenting. May you reflect the faith of Abraham, the bravery of Joseph, the humility of Jarius, and the love of the Father in your life.

The Lord be with you.