

Pastoral Prayer

June 20, 2021

Holy One,

We pray about fathers today, and about mothers, and about children.

We pray for the wisdom and the love of fathers that those who look to them as children, whether by blood or adoption or by the fact of care. We pray for the wisdom and love of children to be returned to the fathers, so that webs of strong and loving relationship connect all the people of this world.

We pray for the mothers of children who have lost their fathers to the accidents or the heartbreaks or the terrible evils of the world. We pray that they might be comforted in their sorrows and relieved of the pain of their anger. We pray that the love shared between them and their children, and the love you pour out upon them, contributes to that web of strong and loving relationship connecting all the people of this world.

We pray for keiki – newborns, toddlers, schoolchildren, adolescents, young adults, middle adults, kupuna. We pray that their relationships with their fathers be strong and life-giving. We pray for those who sorrow without fathers, or without loving fathers, or with fathers who love badly if at all. We pray for those who grieve for their fathers, and for those who yearn to become fathers but are prevented by some circumstance of life. May they all, by your grace, contribute to that web of strong and loving relationship connecting all the people of this world.

We need that web, O God, of fathers and mothers and children and uncles and aunties and grandparents and friends and even strangers. We need that web because the world is filled with storms and illnesses and evils and pain. We need that web to catch those who fall. We need that web to uphold those who suffer. We need that web to carry us when we cannot move. We need that web of strong and loving relationship – and we need you to strengthen it beyond our capacity as your children.

Hold us close, O God, in this human family of yours.

We ask these things in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.