

Coop's Scoops # 58 June 19, 2020

Our Salute to Fathers for Father's Day, June 21st.



Phil Gunyun with Dad Cecil, c 1935

What our Fathers really
Need for Father's Day is
Our love and a prayer! The
Prayer is below. Who knows?
Maybe you'll get a fishing rod too!



Eva Gunyon, sister Susy and
Daddy Gustav Kusy, c 1950

**Holy God
With a Father's strength You guide and lead us,
With a Father's courage, You protect and help us,
You know Your children's names
You write them on Your palms
We thank You that good fathers love us like that too.**



Tracy May's dad, Arthur Malone

**We ask your blessing this day on fathers across
Our land, in our church and in our homes.
Our children need Your blessing on their fathers,
To deepen their love for wives and partners
Grounding in grace their sons and daughters,
That the family may be strong and safe for all.**

**We honour our fathers who have completed their
journey and who we see no more by sight,
but see forever in the pictures of our minds and hearts.
We honour all who offer the ministry of fathering
to children not of their flesh but of their love.**



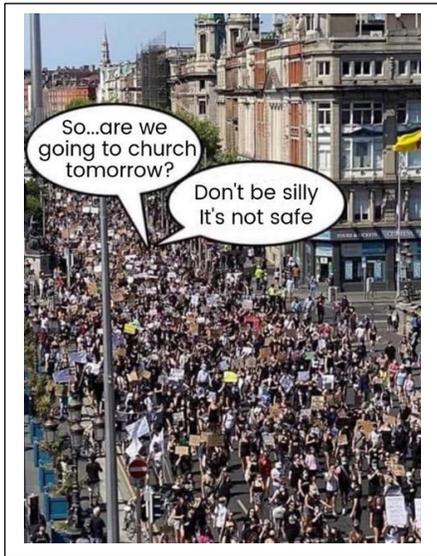
Peter May's father, John May

**Grant them joy and grant them peace,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
(judie,2011)**



Joanne Cunnington's
Dad Charlie

From Phil Gunyon....oh the irony!!!!



PRAYERS FOR RATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC THINKING AND ACTION
ARE STILL
DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR
THE LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBOURS
AND OURSELVES.

Here's a good way to **fill the void** from Jacquie Howell, from the website of her (and Jack's) Florida Church, the Mission of St. Clare, written by the Bishop Steven Charleston.

"To Do List:

- (1) Spend more time outside so I can see that reality still exists,
- (2) Call someone I know who would be glad to hear a friendly voice,
- (3) Stop yelling at the television screen when certain politicians appear,
- (4) Keep washing my hands,
- (5) Donate to the local food bank,
- (6) When I feel like complaining count my blessings
- (7) Get dressed instead of wearing what I sleep in all day,
- (8) Pray for everyone and everything on my prayer list,
- (9) Laugh more,
- (10) Think of one more thing I could do to make this world a better place."

Jokes for the Day:

- Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle.

The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, “Do you always carry your TV remote to church?”

“No,” she replied, “but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most effective thing I could do to get him to come next week!

- The pastor was preparing pancakes for her young sons when the boys began arguing over who would get the first pancake. Rev. Sue saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

“If Jesus were sitting here,” she told them, “He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.’”

The younger boy turned to his brother and said, “You can be Jesus.”

- A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen. 'Careful,' he said, 'CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my gosh! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my gosh! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They're going to STICK! Careful. CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!'

The wife stared at him. 'What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?'

The husband calmly replied, 'I just wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving.'

Scripture for the Day: Luke 15: 18-24

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’^[c]²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

This excerpt of the account known as the story of the Prodigal Son could be more rightly called, in my view, the Parable of the Righteous Father. The Father is indeed the hero of this parable. We all know the beginning of the story: A younger son gets itchy feet and asks for his inheritance early. The Father, respecting his son’s autonomy, agrees. The son goes off, parties with lots of friends until the money runs out and the “friends” disappear. Instead of offering rounds at the bar, the son is now slopping pigs and eating whatever they don’t. What a come down. The son, however, has one very redeeming feature: He has a good memory: He knows he has a Father, and he knows that he can go home. So he does.

While the son has continued on his descent into destruction, what’s the Father been doing? Thinking about his son, no doubt praying for his son the prayers of Israel, and actually standing outside, peering down the roadway, on the watch, ready to “run”, yes, “run” to meet his boy should he ever appear on the horizon.

One glorious day, he does, and the Father runs to greet him, gather him up in his arms and hold him close. Two things to note: 1/ Father’s did not RUN back then. Only little children ran. The more honoured and dignified a man got, the less likely he would EVER be seen scurrying, let alone running. But at a glimpse of his son, the Father picked up the skirts of his robe and flew down the lane without so much as a thought of what the neighbours might think. 2/ The Father kissed his son before the boy could even stammer out an apology, or his request. The righteous Father placed mercy FIRST. The Father loved no matter what the son had done. And the Father would get to decide what happened next.

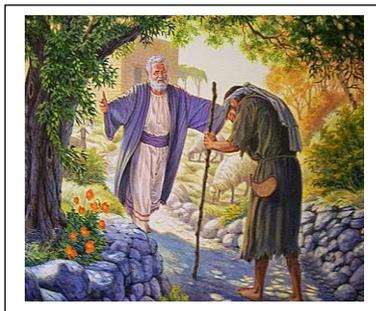
Would he agree to hire his boy back as an employee? Would he set a time frame like Laban did for Isaac? Seven years maybe? Would he have the boy make

a list of all his sins while he was gone and repent in rags and ashes? NONE OF THE ABOVE. The Father reclaimed the son as if he'd never left. Put him right into the best robe, gave him a ring, had a huge feast...there would no mistaking that this son returned was fully a son indeed. Not a conditional son, but a beloved son.

Of course there is more to this parable involving the "other" son but that will be left for another day. This Father's Day weekend it is enough that we honour and remember this Righteous Father. Every dad or grandfather or uncle or brother who reads this today can take some time to actually see how they might pattern themselves as "righteous fathers" to their sons, or grandsons, or nephews (not excluding of course daughters, and granddaughters and nieces. We hear a lot about "tough love", a lot about seeing new 'fruit' before granting forgiveness and trust, a lot about earning one's place back after bad behaviour". We've all probably tried some of that over the years.

I have come to challenge myself over the past fifty years by asking not "Am I acting like a good mother?" but "Am I acting like a righteous mother?" The difference for me being that I want to act like the Father in the parable we're considering. Is what I'm doing for my son, my daughter, my grandkids and so on like what I would hope God Himself would do for me? Am I peering down the road in longing when they wander? Would I toss aside my dignity to run to them? Would I give grace before discipline? I have fallen short. I have sometimes risen above. And somehow, through it all, the kids have known I love them, and have their backs always. What's your experience been? I believe there are many awesome fathers amongst us.

So here's a "hallelujah" for Righteous Fathers! And a few "wow's" for great Fathers! And some encouragement for Struggling Fathers! And some healing for wounded Fathers. God, your Father, will always be to you the Righteous Father of the parable of the Prodigal Son. Blessings! Rev. Judie+



Prayers:

Today, O Lord, I accept your adoption of me.

I confess that you are always with me and always for me.

I receive into my spirit your grace, your mercy, your care.

I rest in your love, O Lord, I rest in your love. Amen.

Stir me, O Lord to care,

For a world so lost and dying

For righteous ways that are rejected and scorned

For enemies that hate and malign me

May I run to gather them in. Amen.

For our Concurrence Committee:

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on our parishes with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a new Priest for our congregations, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing: Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Judie+