

2021 TOKYO OLYMPICS-a reflection!

Last Tuesday's Gospel quoted Jesus of Nazareth say, "*that anyone who does the will of my Father is my brother, sister and mother.*" (Matthew chapter 12 verse 50). When I read these words I immediately realized that there can be many forms of a family unit besides the biological family.

For anyone to have the opportunity and the privilege to become an *Olympian* enables them to belong to a special type of family. The members of an Olympic family spend so much time together in constant and exhausting training schedules, living, travelling and dining with each other then sharing with each other their highs and lows from competing in their events.

The Tokyo Olympics is soon to begin in most unusual circumstances with no spectators being present and with the real threat of another COVID outbreak. Hopefully, the next Olympics to be held in Paris, France scheduled for 2024 will see spectators back and be free of the threat of any virus.

Pope Francis recently shared an insight on the Olympics in these words; "*The Olympics presents an ideal opportunity for people "to put themselves on the line" and to appreciate the merits of fair play and also the value of triumph and defeat. The greatness of a person is so often more evident when they are defeated more so than in their triumphs.*"

Within life as in the Olympics there is a lot for people to gain besides always coming first! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*