

FATHER'S DAY REFLECTION 2021

One of the great American military commanders was General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964). Towards the end of his outstanding military career the General was interviewed, he spoke these wise and revealing words; *“By profession I am a soldier but what I am most proud of is of being a father to my children. When I am gone from this world what I will value most is what my children will say about me a lot more than what millions of people have said about me as a military commander.”*

We will soon celebrate Father's Day on September 5 this year in both challenging and strange times due to the COVID 19 lockdown, sadly it will be where many extended families will not be physically together. Yet the lockdown has also brought many children at home with their father closer together than ever.

As Father's Day approaches, I want to leave you with this reflection that's appropriately called, *The Beatitudes of Fathers*.

**Blessed is the father who seeks to understand his child where hopefully they will inherit a kingdom of good memories!*

**Blessed is the father who guides his child towards a path of righteousness where hopefully the father will be so proud of his child!*

**Blessed are the fathers who praise what is good and criticizes what is necessary so hopefully his child will do the same!*

May we all continue to bless and affirm all fathers especially on September 5 this year! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*