



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING 2021

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*Brothers,*  
*what must we do?* **2021**

Launching Nationally on  
**Saturday, 31st July 2021**

[www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

## Welcome

Welcome and thank you for being a part of the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering. Established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) in 2020, this initiative builds upon a history of men's groups and reinforces the ongoing importance of gathering as men in the faith environment to ensure the Gospel is alive in our homes and communities.

The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering aims to inspire and encourage all men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese, and the world. It is a free online resource offered to registered participants in partnership with local hosting communities.

In this guide you will find resources for preparation, promotion, participation and hosting this initiative. We understand each community is different and may facilitate the experience based on men's availability, spiritual journey, contexts and local realities. The resources offer flexibility to support you in making the most of this moment of grace.

## How to use the guidelines

**Program:** Consider which program type you will offer: full day, half day, evening or online.

**Promotion and Preparation:** As you make arrangements for the gathering, begin promotion immediately utilising the many resources available online.

**Prayer:** Pray in the lead-up to the gathering for its success and ensure you have prepared joyful prayers for the gathering.

**Hosting and Honouring:** Be a gracious and Christian host, honouring those gathered.

## About the working committee

*The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering is prepared and supported by a voluntary working group as part of a joint initiative of the Bishops Commission for Family, Life and Public Engagement, and the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry. The working committee includes:*

**Archbishop Julian Porteous**

Archbishop of Hobart, member of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

**Bishop Michael Kennedy**

Bishop of Armidale, member of the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement.

**Mr Matthew Biddle**

Digital Engagement Officer, National Centre for Evangelisation, ACBC.

**Mr Robert Falzon**

Co-founder of MenAlive.

**Ms Clara Geoghegan**

Executive Secretary, Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

**Mr Malcolm Hart**

Director, National Centre for Evangelisation, ACBC.

**Mr Jude Hennessy**

Director, Office of Renewal and Evangelisation, Diocese of Wollongong.

**Mrs Louise Zavone**

Executive Secretary, Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement.

# Program

The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering is proposed as a full day gathering of men in local communities around Australia. The sample program outlines a spacious agenda where men can reflect on nationally supplied videos, discuss in small groups locally and discern ways of moving forward personally and in their communities. Many bishops are hosting gatherings based on this proposed agenda and you are encouraged to link with these where possible (see [Find a Place to Gather](#)).

However, it is not always possible to offer the program in this way and several alternative agendas are presented below to provide flexibility. An alternative agenda and style of gathering is much preferred rather than not being able to gather at all.

Five videos will be released on July 30. The [speakers' biographies can be found online](#), with topics and approximate running times listed below.

INTRODUCTION AND RECAP OF 2020 EVENT		20 MINUTES
5 mins	Introduction / Welcome and Prayer	Jude Hennessy
15 mins	Recap	Jude Hennessy Robert Falzon
SESSION 1 – MAN OF GOD		25 MINUTES
3 mins	Introduction	Jude Hennessy
15/20 mins	Keynote: Man of God	Tomasz Juszczak
3 mins	Prayer, thanks and invitation to Session 2	Robert Falzon
SESSION 2 – MAN OF SERVICE		25 MINUTES
5 mins	Introduction	Robert Falzon
15/20 mins	Keynote: Man of Service	Tim Davis
5 mins	Prayer, thanks and invitation to Session 3	Jude Hennessy
SESSION 3 – MAN OF CHARACTER		25 MINUTES
5 mins	Introduction	Jude Hennessy
15/20 mins	Keynote: Man of Character	Shayne Bennett
5 mins	Prayer, thanks and invitation to Commissioning	Robert Falzon
COMMISSIONING		20 MINUTES
5 mins	Welcome and Introduction	Jude Hennessy
10 mins	Commissioning and Sending	Archbishop Julian Porteous
5 mins	Event Conclusion	Jude Hennessy Robert Falzon

Each Keynote presentation will be accompanied by a set of reflection questions to use in your local gatherings (see Section 6).

These videos can be utilised in a variety of agenda and gathering styles, however there are several key elements which are essential to all approaches:

- **Fellowship:** We must allow time to get to know each other, our stories, what's happened this week and our faith encounters. This is demonstrated by long breaks to meet and connect with other men.
- **Prayer:** We must gather to pray and be prayerful in our gathering. This is demonstrated by allowing enough time to pray in your program, with local preparation and leadership.
- **Small Group Discussion:** We must share, explore and speak aloud to each other in small groups to share our learnings and yearnings inspired by the sessions. This is demonstrated by 'small' groups (4-6 men) and suitable discussion time to allow for deeper reflection.

## Program examples

*The following are examples and need to be considered in light of local community resources, distances, COVID-19 restrictions, accessibility and appeal.*

**Full Day Program: A parish, school, or diocese could gather men for a full day in community.**

### SAMPLE A – Full Day Program option 1

9:00am	Mass
9:55am	Local Welcome and Prayer
10:00am	Play: Introduction and Recap of 2020
10:30am	Play: Session 1 – Man of God
11:00am	Small Group Discussion
11:30am	Morning Tea
12:00pm	Play: Session 2 – Man of Service
12:25pm	Small Group Discussion
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Play: Session 3 – Man of Character
2:25pm	Small Group Discussion
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30pm	Commissioning
3:50pm	Thank you and farewell
4:00pm	Conclude

### SAMPLE B – Full Day Program option 2

8:00am	Breakfast and Sign In
8:50am	Local Welcome and Prayer
9:10am	Play: Introduction and Recap of 2020
9:30am	Play: Session 1 – Man of God
10:00am	Small Group Discussion
10:30am	Morning Tea
11:00am	Play: Session 2 – Man of Service
11:30am	Small Group Discussion
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Play: Session 3 – Man of Character
1:30pm	Small Group Discussion
2:00pm	Afternoon Tea
2:30pm	Mass and Farewell (include a local Commissioning)
3:45pm	Thank you and farewell
4:00pm	Conclude

**Half Day Program: A parish, school, diocese could gather men for half a day, over two days or two weekends.**

SAMPLE C – Half Day Programs

Day 1		Day 2	
9:00am	Mass	9:00am	Local Welcome and Prayer
9:55am	Local Welcome	9:15am	Play Session 2 – Man of Service
10:00am	Play: Introduction and Recap of 2020	9:40am	Small Group Discussion
10:20am	Morning Tea	10:10am	Morning Tea
10:50am	Play: Session 1 – Man of God	10:35am	Play Session 3 – Man of Character
11:15am	Small Group Discussion	11:00am	Small Group Discussion
11:50pm	Prayer and thank you	11:30am	Commissioning
12:00pm	Lunch	11:50am	Thank you and farewell
		12:00pm	Lunch

*N.B. Times could be applied for an afternoon session starting from lunch or leading into a dinner.*

**Evening Program: Gathering men over multiple evenings or online sessions.**

SAMPLE D – Evening Program

Meeting 1

7:00pm	Local Welcome and Prayer
7:20pm	Play: Introduction and Recap of 2020
7:40pm	Play: Session 1 – Man of God
8:05pm	Small Group Discussion
8:45pm	Prayer and thank you
9:00pm	Conclude

Meeting 2

7:00pm	Local Welcome and Prayer
7:20pm	Play Session 2 – Man of Service
7:45pm	Small Group Discussion
8:30pm	Prayer and thank you
8:45pm	Conclude

### Meeting 3

7:00pm	Local Welcome and Prayer
7:20pm	Play Session 3 – Man of Character
7:45pm	Small Group Discussion
8:30pm	Commissioning
8:50pm	Thank you and farewell
9:00pm	Conclude



### Individual Program

If you are encountering the program individually you can watch each module at your convenience. It is important to give yourself time to reflect on the Keynote presentations, so please take time to journal your responses to the reflection questions, allowing yourself to process and consider how it relates to you.

# Promotion and Preparation

The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering is an evangelisation initiative. The invitation, welcome and hospitality of your gatherings are critical to this mission. We are working in partnership with the Holy Spirit to prepare the way of the Lord and allow Him to evangelise.

Some promotional and preparatory guides are included below, to help you make the most of this moment of grace. In all we do we strive to ensure the safety of those gathered (physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually) and to create a space for the Holy Spirit.

## Promotion

The [Australian Catholic Men's Gathering website](#) has a [promotional resources](#) page with a parish bulletin notice, graphics and presenter information. Please visit this page and utilise these tools in your local community newsletters, networks, and on social media. Be sure to include a personal invitation and details of your hosting site.

The [National Centre for Evangelisation Facebook page](#) has a number of promotional videos from the Bishops and presenters. Please consider sharing these videos on your social media platforms. Be sure to follow the page to receive regular updates and news of ongoing initiatives.

Be sure to [Register your Hosting Site](#) on the website so men in your area can find and connect with your gathering. This is an important outreach and evangelisation strategy of the Men's Gathering. You also may like to help men you know to [Find a Place to Gather](#) by sharing the national list via your personal and organisational networks.

Encourage all men prior, during or after the event to [Register for Free](#) on the website. By registering, participants will be supported into the future with resources, messages of hope, future opportunities and newsletters to support their journey. It also helps to build the network of faith-filled men and organisations around the country.

## Why Gather Men?



In the 2020 Men's Gathering, keynote speaker Daniel Ang shared of the diminishing presence of men in the Church. Identifying some of the urgent matters to be addressed to support men, Daniel highlighted the role of men and how the Church must be attentive to and renew its support of Catholic men in Australia.

You are encouraged to view Daniel's 10-minute presentation, [Where are all the Men?](#) to become informed of the valuable role you play as a Hosting Site Coordinator. You can find all the [2020 Event Resources](#) online if you wish to refresh yourself prior to hosting a gathering.

## Preparation

Hosting a group of men is a rewarding experience and a critical ministry for the Church. In preparing we must develop an understanding of the importance of this ministry as well as make the logistical preparations needed.

### Logistical Preparations

Hosting a gathering could seem overwhelming, however the Church often gathers people together and is set up to support you and to make it an easy process. Here are a few simple steps and elements to be aware of:

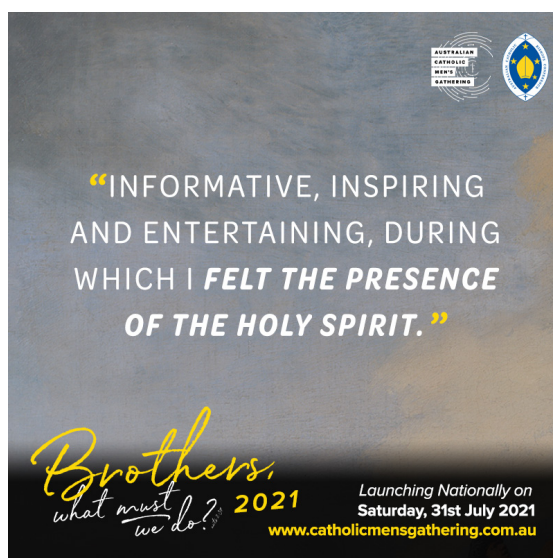
- **Your Hosting Site:** It is recommended that you gather large groups of men at a parish, diocesan, or school location, thus utilising existing resources and processes to ensure the safety of the men and yourself. Existing church sites have trained staff and processes to manage workplace health and safety (or state equivalents), insurance, risk management, catering procedures, COVID-19 requirements, etc. Liaise with venue staff to ensure you have the support you need and meet the standards required. They are there to help.
- **Small Groups or Home Gatherings:** If you are gathering a small group of men in your home or other location, then please ensure you are aware of local COVID-19 restrictions, attendees' food allergies, and any possible scenarios which may come up. These aren't always life-threatening situations, but a simple brainstorming of situations and how you would deal with them would assist you to respond safely and calmly. See suggestions below.
- **COVID-19 Requirements:** COVID-19 is still a very real concern to our community and our gatherings. Firstly, if you are preparing for a gathering, you must check your local state health department's website for the status of requirements and restrictions related to COVID-19. Please respond accordingly, including adhering to physical distancing and venue capacities, mask requirements, provision of hand sanitiser and appropriate check-in procedures.
- **Alternative Gathering Plan:** In light of the fluctuating COVID-19 realities and potential changes in the availability of your group, it will be helpful to make alternative arrangements to participate in case restrictions or a lockdown are implemented at short notice. This can include access to an online meeting platform (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, etc), alternative program options (see above), postponing the gathering to a later date, and contact details for your participants to provide up-to-date information.
- **An over 18 Initiative:** This gathering, its content and experience is aimed at men over the age of 18. If anyone under the age of 18 is to attend, you must adhere to diocesan safeguarding policies and develop a safeguarding response.
- **Hospitality:** Ensure you have created a welcoming and safe space for men to gather. Simple strategies are essential such as car parking, signage and directions, name tags, tea and coffee freely available, seating and a personal welcome. To meet some of these essentials, you may like to outline a small budget and discuss with your community leadership to ensure you have more than adequate hospitality for your gathering.



• **Ask for Help and Coordinate:** In attempting to do everything ourselves we often fulfil tasks poorly or miss opportunities to be present to the group gathered. Invite others to assist, lead and share where possible. This allows you to 'coordinate' and arrive at the gathering open to what the Holy Spirit might ask of you. At the gathering, we want to be Mary at the feet of Jesus, rather than Martha racing around busy.

• **Some simple considerations for Hosting Site Coordinators include:**

- o If you have to postpone or cancel... do you have an alternative meeting plan and schedule, can you contact participants to notify them of the change?
- o Imagine arriving at your own venue... What time of day is it and how would you feel? What would you expect? What would be unexpected and nice to have?
- o If a participant become ill... can you respond with first aid or by calling an ambulance?
- o If a participant discloses something confronting or challenging... how would you respond, who can you connect them with?
- o If a disagreement occurs... how would you resolve the discussion and move forward?
- o If a participant cannot get home because their car won't start or public transport has stopped... how could you help them?
- o If a participant is moved by the experience and stays behind to chat and wants to know more or share their personal faith encounter... will you have time to invest with them? What would you say? Where would you direct them for ongoing spiritual support?
- o What else can you think of?



# Prayer

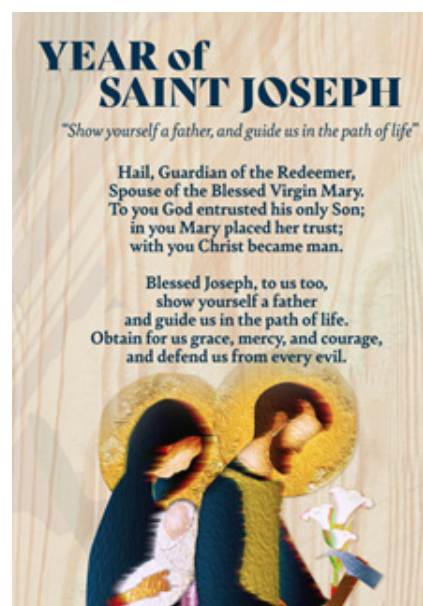
Prayer is foundational to any gathering of the faithful. We invite all leaders and participants to pray in preparation for the gathering, together during the initiative and then together to discern ways of praying beyond your meeting. Please find some examples and resources for prayer which you may find helpful below.

## Your Local Community of Men

The 2021 Men's Gathering focuses on bringing together men locally and utilising their talents. In the first instance, you are encouraged to invite local men to prepare and lead your prayer. Our communities are filled with talented men, musicians, readers, speakers and leaders, and many others who are willing to be involved if invited. Take the time to identify, accompany and prepare men to lead your community in prayer.

## Year of St Joseph

In this year of St Joseph, we encourage you to pray with St Joseph through a [selection of prayers and reflections assembled by the ACBC](#). Including material from the Vatican, monthly prayers and reflections by Australian Bishops and leaders, this collection of material will support you during your gathering and provide ongoing prayer and formation for the rest of the year.



## Novena (Appendix A)

A novena prayer has been prepared by the working committee to be prayed across Australia from Thursday 22 July until Friday 30 July. Attached as Appendix A, the novena contains daily scripture, reflection and a daily prayer to St Joseph.

*(A novena (from Latin: novem, "nine") is an ancient tradition of devotional praying in Christianity, consisting of private or public prayers repeated for nine successive days or weeks. The nine days between the Feast of the Ascension and Pentecost, when the disciples gathered in the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer, is often considered to be the first novena.)*

As we pray earnestly for this virtual gathering, let us ask God to visit with us, work with us and send us out to be missionaries in our homes, families and parishes. We pray that we may be carriers of God's contagious love to our wives, children, brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us pray for an extraordinary visitation during this time together. Let us petition the Virgin Mary to ask her Son Jesus for a special outpouring of grace for the sons of the Father that gather for this event.

## Music and Multimedia

Australia has a number of local musicians and locally-produced multimedia resources that can assist you to lead prayer at your gathering. Below are several Australian musicians and multimedia content that you could draw upon for your gathering or future meetings with men.

### Musicians:

John Burland - <https://johnburland.net>

Fr Rob Galea - <https://www.frgministry.com>

Pat Keady - <https://patkeady.com/music>

Stephen Kirk - <https://stephenkirk.com.au/music>

### Worship and Multimedia:

The Well (Parramatta) - <https://thewell.org.au> (Prayer and Worship)

### 2020 Men's Event Resources:

You can also use or be inspired by the prayer experiences offered in previous events:

Introduction: 13th minute to 24th minute (Tim Kirk and the Disciples of Jesus)

Module 2: 24th minute to 36th minute (Tim Kirk and the Disciples of Jesus)

Module 4: 40th minute to 51st minute (Pat Keady)



# Hosting and Honouring

As the event occurs, we must be a gracious and Christian host to everyone who attends. Having shared the responsibilities of the gathering with a small team or inviting participants to make contributions, we can be attentive and positive in how we act, speak, and respond to all participants. This gathering is about the men gathered; be of service to them.

## Photos and Testimonies

Be sure to take some simple photos of the gathering. Capture small groups and faces, rather than large, broad photos. Collect names if you don't know them. Invite participants to share their experiences with some small quotes and thoughts. These photos and testimonies can make up a parish newsletter reflection or social media post to share the gifts of the day. It can also be shared with the diocese or nationally to celebrate men gathering in this way. Highlighting not just the gathering, but men gathering to share their faith is an important evangelisation mission for us into the future.

## Thank you

Any gathering requires a time to give thanks for those who have prepared the event, but also to those who have shared. Each sample agenda includes a time to express our gratitude. A time of thanks should be prepared and include three elements:

- **To organisers and guests:** to those who planned, prepared and facilitated the gathering. The speakers and those who lead prayer locally.
- **To those gathered:** To the men who choose to gather, who took a risk to attend and the families who have supported you to attend.
- **What are you thankful for?:** Invite the group to share with the person next to them something they are thankful for from the gathering. Something they learnt or experienced during their time together.



# Summary and Group Discussion

## Session 1: Man of God - Tomasz Juszczak

In this presentation, Tomasz looks at what it means to be a man of God and how – as men – we can live that out in our lives. Using St Joseph as the ultimate model, Tomasz shows how Jesus' earthly father encompasses the fullness of what it means to be a man of God. Tomasz also shares his own personal story; the successes and struggles of trying to live this more genuinely in his life. There are also some very simple practical tips on what we can do to more closely respond to God's call of becoming men after His own heart.



### Questions

1. Was there anything in Tomasz's presentation that inspired you or called you forward in living more fully as a man of God? Why?
2. Can you identify a struggle in your life at the moment that keeps you from living as a man of God?
3. What is one practical commitment you can make right now that will help you in growing as a man after God's own heart?

## Session 2: Man of Service - Tim Davis

Tim Davis shares the challenges facing men of faith, as they try to navigate themselves and their families through this secular world towards a deeper relationship with God and authentic service and love of Him and our neighbour. Through sharing his experiences and some strategies that he has learnt from other good role models in his life, Tim challenges us to respond honestly to the questions:



- Am I truly open to God's will?
- What am I doing daily to give God opportunities to speak to me, nourish me and direct my service?

### Questions

1. Who are the people in my life I am called to serve/how am I called to serve them?
2. What challenges (internal and external) am I facing in serving those I am called to serve?
3. What strategy will I focus on this week to enable me to serve more effectively (Prayer, Sacraments, Scripture etc)? What concrete action will I do today to make it happen?

*\*Optional Question: If I was asked to deliver my 30-second 'Elevator Testimony' to explain to someone why I am Catholic, what would I say?*



## Session 3: Man of Character - Shayne Bennett

Each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made but our full potential as men of character is unleashed through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and an active surrender to the Holy Spirit. We know we're not perfect, but don't be discouraged by your own failures or limitations. We draw on the grace that God gives us. As men, we have to learn to face our weaknesses depending on God's mercy and strength. Look at St Peter! Look at St Paul! These were not perfect men – they became men of incredible character – often through suffering, through making mistakes, through learning to be obedient – but always with the help of the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit lives in us and wants to do a great work in and through us.



### Questions

1. If you were to describe your top two character traits, what would they be?
2. How has your relationship with Jesus impacted your character?
3. If you could change one aspect of your character, what would it be?

# APPENDIX A

## Novena

### Thursday July 22, 2021

**Feast day of St Mary Magdalene**

**Reflection: John 20: 11-18**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

NOVENA DAY

1

**Prayer for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering**

*Saint Joseph, with Jesus and Mary you knew hunger and uncertainty.*

*You turned your heart to God to present your needs and the needs of your family.*

*In faith you accepted the Father's response as the events of life unfolded.*

*Be with us today as we offer our prayers to the Father.*

*Saint Joseph, help us to recognise God's will as we open our hands to accept what God bestows in loving kindness.*

*With tenderness, God fills creation with life and love.*

*Open our eyes to the wonders that God works for us without ceasing.*

*Help us to understand God's way for us and, like you, to live with faith and trust.*

*Amen.*

## Friday July 23, 2021

### Feast day of St Bridget of Sweden

#### Reflection: Matthew 13:18-23

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

#### Prayer for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

*Hail, Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
In you Mary placed her trust;  
With you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
Show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.  
Amen.*

NOVENA DAY

2



## Saturday July 24, 2021

### Feast day of St Sharbel Makhluf

#### Reflection: Matthew 13:24-30

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

#### Litany prayer to St Joseph for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

<i>Lord, have mercy Lord,</i>	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
<i>Christ, have mercy</i>	<i>Christ, have mercy</i>
<i>Lord, have mercy</i>	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, earthly father of Jesus</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, tender and caring</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, prudent and brave</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, wise and faithful</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, lover of simplicity</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, pattern of patience</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, model of workers</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, guardian of families</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, caregiver of the dying</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, comfort to the fearful</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>
<i>Saint Joseph, protector of our Church</i>	<i>Pray for us</i>

NOVENA DAY

3

## Sunday July 25, 2021

### World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

*In January, Pope Francis announced the institution of a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.*

### Reflection: John 6:1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realised that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

### Litany prayer to St Joseph for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

Lord, have mercy Lord,

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary

Saint Joseph, earthly father of Jesus

Saint Joseph, tender and caring

Saint Joseph, prudent and brave

Saint Joseph, wise and faithful

Saint Joseph, lover of simplicity

Saint Joseph, pattern of patience

Saint Joseph, model of workers

Saint Joseph, guardian of families

Saint Joseph, caregiver of the dying

Saint Joseph, comfort to the fearful

Saint Joseph, protector of our Church

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

Pray for us

NOVENA DAY

4

## Monday July 26, 2021

**Feast day of Sts Joachim and Anne, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary**

### **Reflection: Matthew 13:31-35**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

NOVENA DAY

5

### **Prayer for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering**

*Saint Joseph, head of the Holy Family,  
you worked with Jesus and for him.*

*Together you knew the hardships and demands of a daily routine.*

*Help us to work fruitfully with one another,*

*and to make good use of the gifts God has given each of us,*

*so that we may model our lives on you and*

*grow in a spirit of service and commitment to the mission of Jesus,*

*who is Lord for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

## Tuesday July 27, 2021

### Reflection: Matthew 13:36-43

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

### Prayer for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

*Saint Joseph,  
God the Father chose you, his faithful and just servant,  
to be united in love with Jesus and Mary.  
As you served Jesus, pray that we may serve him in all people.  
May we, who honour you as husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus,  
always remain true to what God asks of each of us.  
May God grant us, through your prayer,  
the acceptance, love and service with which you responded  
when the Father chose you to care for Jesus, his Son, who is Lord for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

NOVENA DAY

6

## Wednesday July 28, 2021

### Reflection: Matthew 13:44-46

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

NOVENA DAY

7

### Prayer for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

*Saint Joseph, we come to you with our cares and our worries  
and confidently invoke your prayer for us.*

*Through the love which bound you to Mary and to Jesus, her divine Son,  
receive our prayers and be our intercessor,  
that we might know your patronage and protection in all our needs.*

*Unite our prayers to yours and from heaven assist us in our struggles and difficulties  
until we shall attain eternal happiness with you.*

*Amen.*

## Thursday July 29, 2021

### Feast day of St Martha

#### Reflection: Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

NOVENA DAY



#### Prayer for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

*Saint Joseph, with Jesus and Mary you knew hunger and uncertainty.*

*You turned your heart to God to present your needs and the needs of your family.*

*In faith you accepted the Father's response as the events of life unfolded.*

*Be with us today as we offer our prayers to the Father.*

*Saint Joseph, help us to recognise God's will as we open our hands  
to accept what God bestows in loving kindness.*

*With tenderness, God fills creation with life and love.*

*Open our eyes to the wonders that God works for us without ceasing.*

*Help us to understand God's way for us and, like you, to live with faith and trust.*

*Amen.*

## Friday July 30, 2021

**Feast day of St Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor**

### **Reflection: Matthew 13:54-58**

He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house." And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

NOVENA DAY

9

### **Prayer for the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering**

*Hail, Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer,*

*Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

*To you God entrusted his only Son;*

*in you Mary placed her trust;*

*with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.*

*Amen.*



For further information about the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering please contact the National Centre for Evangelisation.

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