

## FATHER'S DAY



Comrades, Father's Day falls on June 20.

I'm going to be a wee bit cheeky and take advantage of the freedom to address you regarding this special day.

People often ask why a Priest is addressed as "*Father*". It is right and proper that we should feel both respect and affection for our priest, respect, because in Ordination to the Priesthood he has received *the Holy Spirit for the Office and Work of a Priest in the Church of God*, affection, because he plays an intimate part in the happiest and saddest events of our lives and often becomes our cherished friend.

To call a Priest by his first name, in the casual and indiscriminate modern manner, puts our relationship with him on a false footing, and, especially if he is very young, makes it very difficult for us to remember *into how high a Dignity, and to how weighty an Office and Charge* he has been called. Familiarity neither expresses nor encourages respect.

On the other hand, to call a priest 'Mister' is stilted and does not convey any of the warmth with which we like to regard a man who, even though he may be a stranger, administers the Sacraments to us, shares so many of our joys, and comforts us in so many of our afflictions. It is because it is a form of address that expresses both respect and affection in just the right degree that so many have throughout the ages adopted the helpful custom of calling a priest '**Father**'.

And now all you Dads who sport blue and grey (Legion Comrades), and not forgetting the Dads who are serving away from home with the Military, a very Blessed and happy day be yours! However, don't forget to remember those families whose Dad fell in battle for our freedom and in whose homes an empty chair is a constant reminder.

Your Friend and Padre,  
Father John