

# St Maximilian Kolbe



## Pope's prayer intention for August

Evangelization: That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly 'schools of true human growth'.

## BE STILL

- Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord today.
- Listen to '[No greater love](#)' by Michael Joncas (CWBI 622, GA 460).

## Entrance Antiphon for the feast:

Mt 25:34, 40

Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord.

Amen, I say to you:

Whatever you did for one of the least of my brethren, you did it for me.

## READING

(Gospel for the Memorial of St Kolbe)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus said to his disciples:

'This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.'

—John 15:12-16

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Ponder:

- After the first reading of the gospel, what words or phrases stay with me?
- Re-read the gospel. Take a moment of silence to reflect upon how God is speaking through this text. Noting down some responses to the following may assist with reflection:

### I think about my life:

- What is God asking me to listen to?
- What does God want me to pay attention to?
- What is God prompting, directing, leading and guiding me to in this reading?
- What are my worries at the moment?

### I think about my community and the world:

- What is God asking of us at this time?
- What is God wanting us to attend to in our community and our world?

- What is God prompting, directing, leading and guiding us towards?
- How will I accept the challenge of preaching the Good News this week?

## Reflect:

Each saint is a living Gospel. They have all, in some way, embodied—literally incarnated—the challenge of faith in their time and place, and so opened a path that others might follow.

—Robert Ellsberg, 'Meet the Famous Franciscan Saints', *St Anthony Messenger*, 25 September 2017

St Maximilian Kolbe demonstrated self-less love. A prisoner of war at Auschwitz, he volunteered to take the place of a younger man who had children when ten men were selected for execution as revenge for a prisoner who had escaped from the cell block. The opening words of the papal decree introducing his beatification in 1982 were drawn from John 15:13: 'Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

St Kolbe is the patron saint of families, prisoners, journalists, political prisoners, drug addicts and the pro-life movement. St John Paul II declared him to be 'the patron saint of our difficult century.'

The story of St Kolbe is a reminder to us about true discipleship. Perhaps it is an encouragement to us to reflect about what we would lay down our lives for—what is at the heart of our lives? To what are we most committed? Who do we love? What is bearing fruit in our lives? What is of God? And a reminder that St Kolbe was able to respond in love because it was a response to God in his life.

## PRAY

Loving God,  
Reassure us as we respond to the challenges of our times  
Encourage us in our efforts to live good lives  
Lift our hearts and minds in order that our works may bear fruit  
May we always answer the call to serve with love.  
Amen.