**Respect your father and mother** (Ephesians 6.2)

I have reading ‘Ranger’s Apprentice’ to Sharon’s class. The main character is Will who does not know who his father was and created a fictional history so he can tell others about him.

Most people today know who their fathers were, and many have fond memories, though not all.

TEXT – originated in the Ten Commandments: **Honour your father and mother** (Exodus 20.12).
Household Code found in Ephesians 5.22-6.9, Colossians 3.18-4.1 & partially in 1 Peter 3.1-7, speaks about relationships between husbands and wives, masters and slaves and, here, parents and children.

In Ephesians there are rules for how to be children – obey parents, and how to be parents – do not annoy children, give them discipline and instruction.

It is important to give *both* sides. The rule to give discipline and instruction can be interpreted to include physical violence, which today we see as inappropriate; how often has such beating been provoked by a parent’s annoying attitudes, speech or actions. Even imposing your will on a child is doubtful.

There is some modern understanding that disobedience can be a sign of growing up, taking own decisions, making own mistakes.

Friday Club (should have occurred in Lockdown) has one rule - respect. Respect has to be earned. How does that occur within families? Mainly by being respectful – Household Code is basically about this. So if a father wants to receive respect it must first be given.

Isn’t this why we call God a true Father? God respects us through his love and concern, and once we understand, acknowledge and receive this we too can give God respect.

Part of how God shows that respect is also through discipline & instruction. Commands, calling, critique.

How do we show respect to God in practical terms? By obeying those commands, by following that call, by learning from God’s critique. All this in relation to us as individuals, and as a parish.