Prayers for Universal Children’s Day

20 November

Justice for children
Loving God
You have called us to work for true justice in our communities
and to be messengers of freedom
for all who are not treated as your children.
Give us grace to put our faith into action
to end the violence and cruelty that overshadows many children’s lives.
Jesus taught us to welcome children and learn from them.
May we use our imagination to put ourselves in children’s shoes
and learn to teach and guide them with wisdom,
gentleness and understanding.
Let us treat each child as we would treat the Christ child.
Amen

A prayer for parents
God our Creator
As Mary nurtured her son Jesus
at each new stage of life
with wisdom and respect,
may we too meet each new challenge of parenting
with full humanity
and respond with kindness and understanding.

Help us to promote the true meaning of discipline
as discipleship, teaching and guidance;
not smacking, punishment and humiliation.

Help us to speak out boldly and challenge all those
who use religion to justify the painful punishment of children.

Create in us a sense of universal responsibility towards all children
so that in our work and daily life
we may follow the example of Jesus
who listened to children and gave them status and respect.
And may we see your likeness and image in every child.
Amen