

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.

So may we 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.

May we 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