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.
So may we see your likeness and image in every child.
Amen