



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of Families and Children

31 May – 1 June 2025

This weekend, we joyfully celebrate the Jubilee of Families and Children, giving thanks for the love, joy, and strength that families bring to our communities. We honour the sacred bond between parents, children, and all those who nurture and care for them, recognising that families are the foundation of our faith, hope, and love. We celebrate the laughter of children, the wisdom of parents, and the shared journey of growing together in faith.

Today, we give thanks for the blessings of family life and renew our commitment to supporting and strengthening families, ensuring they are places of love, peace, and mutual respect. May we continue to walk together, hand in hand, as we build a future of compassion and care for all.

Prayers

Example prayer of the faithful

For our families, that the love of Christ may dwell richly in our hearts, uniting us in peace and mutual understanding. **E te Ariki ...**

For our families separated due to conflict, migration or hardship, that they may overcome difficulties and be reunited. **E te Ariki ...**

For orphaned children throughout the world, especially those who are abused or neglected, that we might work to find ways to save and protect them. **E te Ariki ...**

For every little child, that their presence might remind us of God's beautiful creation and the infinite value of human life. **E te Ariki ...**

Other prayers for Families and Children

Prayer for Families

Dear Heavenly Father, God of Love, please keep all families united and grant them Your Love and Peace.

May all families receive Your Grace and Wisdom to imitate the Holy Family, understanding and supporting one another with eternal Love and the Holy Spirit.





Jubilee 2025



Help us maintain peace at home, never to depart from it until the end.

Please keep our families safe in Your hands, O Lord.

We pray to You through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Written by Nuong (Cindy) Nguyen

Loving God, we thank you for the gifts of families. We ask your blessing on all families today and always.

Be with us in our daily life together. Be our guide in times of challenge. Be our strength in times of difficulty. Be our joy in times of delight.

Help our families to grow stronger in your love, and show us how to love one another as you have loved us.

May we welcome Jesus as the unseen guest in our home. May we be his voice and hands, respecting and caring for those we meet.

May we look to the example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as we strive to be the best family we can be.

Most Holy Family of Nazareth, pray for us. Amen

From <https://www.stjohnskwr.catholic.edu.au/>

Parents' Prayer for their Children

O God, Father of all, who have given me these children and entrusted me with the responsibility to raise them for You and prepare them for eternal life: help me with Your grace so that I may carry out this sacred duty well. Teach me when to give and when to hold back; when to correct and when to be patient. Help me to be gentle but firm, considerate and vigilant. Protect me from both being too lenient and too harsh, and guide me to lead them with wisdom and true faith, by both my words and actions. May I, together with them, one day share the joy of our eternal home in heaven, in the company of the blessed Angels and Saints. Amen.

From <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=71>





Jubilee 2025



Prayer for Children

"Let the children come to me." (Mt. 19:14)

Loving Father, you look with compassion on all your children, especially those who are vulnerable.

May we work to create a world in which every child has access to food, clean water, shelter, education, health care, and all other basic rights.

May we teach youth about their role in working for peace, justice and the common good.

May we act together to ensure that the lives and dignity of children everywhere can be respected. Amen.

From <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-youth>

Reflection on the Jubilee of Families and Children

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 31 May – 1 June 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.

I was oversharing with a receptionist at a skin clinic; you see, a lesion had appeared on my back, and I was feeling anxious as my husband was having chemo at the time. The receptionist enquired if I had family about, and I proudly told her my family were wonderful, and we frequently met up. She answered, "I wish my family got along like that..."

I felt grateful and sad at the same time. And later, I started thinking about 'who is family'?

"Family" can mean different things to different people. Many New Zealanders have experienced family structures that differ from the traditional Western ideal of a two-parent family. Some people have not been raised in their birth family. Not all family structures are either safe or life-giving places for family members. However, our expectations of families are that they should be places where members are safe, loved, and encouraged to become fulfilled human beings.

Jesus speaks of family in a truly communal sense—we as brothers and sisters. Jesus was all about relationships, spending quality time, sharing food, listening, and responding to the needs of those he met. No one was excluded.

In John's account of the crucifixion, we read: "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home."

So how can we best live out this model of family?





Jubilee 2025



For me, joining a Passionist Family Group in my Parish was the tool to begin this journey. You see, I always felt that as a community, to receive communion while not being in communion with those around me felt empty. The Passionist Family Groups called members into relationship, sharing more intimately, spending quality time, food, listening, accepting, celebrating, and responding to the needs of those in the group. It's been a privilege to hear incredible stories of faith, hardship, humour, and love from those I've met. I truly felt Jesus's presence being revealed in others on a whole new level, and it was contagious. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't all smooth sailing, and there were always lessons learnt along the way. But hanging in there has truly produced fruits in my own faith journey.

So who is 'family' for you?

May we cherish and give thanks for family and the relationships that give us life. And may we pray for the grace and courage to forgive and seek to mend those relationships which keep us from true peace within.

Linda Darbyshire

Passionist Family Group member/coordinator

Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the Provided Prayers of the Faithful or Write Your Own**
Tailor prayers to celebrate the dignity, strength, and gifts of families and children. Recognise the unique role of families in nurturing faith, love, and community. Pray for families to be supported in their roles, for the well-being of children, and for all families to be blessed with the grace to grow together in faith and unity.
- **Family Picnic or BBQ**
Host a casual family picnic or BBQ, where families can gather, enjoy food together, and take part in fun outdoor activities. This could include games, face painting, and a chance for families to connect with each other.
- **Children's Mass or Family Mass**
Celebrate a special Mass for families and children, perhaps with a children's choir or involving the children in the liturgy through readings, prayers, or bringing up the gifts. Consider dedicating the homily to the importance of families in the Church.
- **Family Quiz Night**
Organise a family-friendly quiz night with questions about Bible stories, Church history, and fun family-related topics. Include prizes for the winning teams, and allow time for socialising and enjoying the evening together.





Jubilee 2025



- **Special Prayers for Children**
Incorporate prayers specifically for children during Mass or gatherings. You could have children read the Prayers of the Faithful or lead a prayer time of their own. Pray for their protection, guidance, and growth in faith.
- **Family Fun Day**
Plan a day of fun activities for families, including games, sports, crafts, and competitions. Activities could be set up by age group or family teams, and this could be followed by a meal and fellowship.
- **Family Blessing Service**
Offer a special blessing for families during Mass or in a separate service. Families could come forward to receive a blessing for their home, family relationships, and the spiritual well-being of each family member.
- **Parenting Workshop or Family Support Group**
Organise a workshop for parents and caregivers, focusing on family life, raising children in faith, and supporting one another. This could also include a special time for prayer and reflection for parents.
- **Children's Talent Show**
Host a talent show where children can share their gifts, whether it's singing, dancing, reciting scripture, or playing musical instruments. This is a fun way to showcase the talent of the children in your community and celebrate their uniqueness.
- **Family Movie Night**
Organise a movie night for families, featuring a faith-based movie or an animated children's film with positive moral lessons. Provide snacks and create a cozy atmosphere for families to enjoy together.
- **Adopt a Family Prayer Chain**
Create a prayer chain where families commit to praying for each other. This could involve pairing families together for a month of prayer support, encouraging deeper connections and a sense of community.

