

"Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows. Love can flourish in men and women who try not to make conflict the last word, but rather a new opportunity. An opportunity to seek help, an opportunity to question how we need to improve, an opportunity to discover the God Who is with us and never abandons us. This is a great legacy that we can give to our children, a very good lesson: we make mistakes, yes; we have problems, yes. But we know that that is not really what counts. We know that mistakes, problems and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to others, to draw closer to God."

Pope Francis



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MARRIAGE & FAMILY COUNCIL

Bishops Commission for Family Youth and Life

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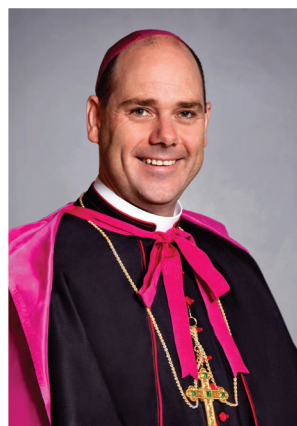
MONTH OF PRAYER

FOR

*Marriage
& Families*

MONTH OF PRAYER

FOR Marriage & Families



Married life and family life is a real blessing. It's a source of much love and great joy for so many of us, but we all know from our experience that family life can be messy. It comes with daily struggles and daily hardships that families have to face and so on behalf of the Catholic bishops of Australia I invite you to join us this October in a month of prayer for marriage and for families. All families need our prayers and need God's grace.

Our scriptures and our church's history are full of so many examples of the miraculous results that can be achieved when a community prays together. So in our parishes, our schools and in our own family homes let's choose some prayer and do it together.

And this invitation is extended to members of other churches, faith communities and religions as all together we ask for God's blessing upon our families.

And so please join us this October for a month of prayer for our marriages and families.

May God bless you and your families.

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Bishop Michael Kennedy

JOY OF MARRIAGE

SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER 2018

Loving God, We thank you for the joy we receive through our married couples. We ask that you fill them with the delight to be found in self-giving, faithfulness and intimacy. Help them to fully appreciate the incredible gift they are to one another, their families and the world. May we always nurture and support married love in our families and communities as Your light continues to shine through them.

JOY OF CHILDREN

SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2018

Loving God, We thank you for the joy we receive through our loved-ones, especially the children in our lives. Help us to reflect this great love back to them through our words and actions as their beautiful smiles reveal your face to us. Help us to be good role models for our precious little ones as we seek to raise them to love and worship you.

JOY OF PURITY

SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER 2018

Heavenly Father, Give us the graces of purity and chastity. Help us to guard our thoughts and desires from impurity. Give us the courage to cleanse our lives of all harmful images and influences. Help us to remember that all people are created in your image and likeness and have profound dignity. May we carefully respect the whole being of all those we encounter.

JOY OF COMMITMENT

SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 2018

Heavenly Father, We know that all things worthwhile require courage and perseverance. Fill us with the strength we need to fulfil our vocations with all the commitment they entail. Help us to honour our promises to one another faithfully through good times and bad. May we embody the humility and holiness of Jesus, especially in the presence of those who need us the most.