



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNCIL



MONTH OF PRAYER  
FOR

*Marriage  
& Families*



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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 our marriage and ask that we may live a life worthy of your love, appreciating the wonderful gift that we are to each other, and our family. Fill our marriage with laughter, gratefulness and goodness, and allow our joyful memories to be remembered especially in times of hurt and sadness. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## **JOY OF CHILDREN**

SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2018

Creator God, We thank you for the joy we receive from those we love, especially the children in our lives. Help all children to see you by the examples that we give to them, so that their hearts are filled with joy as they come to know, love and worship you. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## **JOY OF PURITY**

SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER 2018

God of love, We ask that you guard our thoughts and desires away from any harmful images and influences. Help us to respect the dignity of all people and remember that they are created in your image and likeness. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## **JOY OF COMMITMENT**

SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 2018

God of love, We ask that all married couples are faithful to each other, honouring and keeping their promise to love, through both good times and bad times. Help us to always be witnesses of your love and joy in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen





"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



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Bishops Commission for Family Youth and Life

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