

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE JOY OF LOVE
— PART ONE —
LOVE IN FAMILY



A Book of Prayers

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love;
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalised
find ready comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.

(Pope Francis' prayer at the conclusion of 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 325)

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE JOY OF LOVE
Part I

CONTENTS

- 5 MARRIAGE
- 6 FAMILY AND HOME
- 9 PARENTS, MOTHERS, FATHERS, SINGLE PARENTS, COUPLES
WITHOUT CHILDREN, ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE
- 13 CHILDREN, BROTHERS, SISTERS
- 15 CHALLENGES, DIFFICULTIES, CRISES, BURDENS & SUFFERING
- 18 GOD — FAMILY OF NAZARETH
- 20 EDUCATION OF CHILDREN FOR LIFE AND FAITH

Prayers based on paragraphs of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation
on love in the family, 'The Joy of Love' *Amoris Laetitia*, 2016.

BOOKLET SERIES: QUOTES & PRAYERS BASED ON POPE FRANCIS' WRITINGS
Book 4, Part 1. Edition 1.



MARRIAGE

God of Life and Hope,

bless those of us who are married,
as we reflect your faithfulness,
support one another and grow old together.
May we always be there for each other.
May our love help us to know that you are close
and you will never abandon us. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 319)

God of Kindness,

give us the love that sustains a great commitment.
Show us that promising love for ever is possible.
May our love overcome all trials
and remain faithful in the face of everything.
May the gift of your grace strengthen our love and lift it high. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 124)

God of Married People,

strengthen the love of man and woman
in the intimate partnership of life and love that is marriage,
in life full of meaning.
May children born of married love,
spring from the heart of mutual giving, its fruit and fulfilment.
May each child, present from the beginning of love,
be nurtured and grow in this love. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 80)

The Joy of Love

God of Enduring Love,

confirm and consecrate us in the sacrament of matrimony.

Help us remember that our wedding is “just the beginning”;

that by saying “I do”,

we embark on a lifelong project, a journey

that requires us to overcome obstacles.

With the help of your grace,

may our gaze be directed to the future.

May we learn to set aside illusions

and accept each other as we are;

persons needing to grow, works in progress.

May our love deepen through the years.

May the nuptial blessing we receive(d) be grace for our journey. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ “The Joy of Love”, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 218)



FAMILY AND HOME

God of Families,

may each child born into a family be welcomed as a gift from you.

May each new life lead us to experience more deeply

dimensions of love which will never cease to amaze us.

May children, loved even before they arrive,

learn that you love each one first,

even before we can love in return.

The Joy of Love

May each family member know, ever more deeply,
that you loved each one into being, and you love us always. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 166)

God of Patient Love,

may we never nurture anger
and never grow weary of doing good.
Help us to never let the day end
without making peace in our family.
Teach us to make peace by small gestures,
little caresses, when no words are necessary
to restore harmony.

May our first reaction be, when annoyed, to ask you, O God,
to bless, free and heal us both. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 104)

Mary, Mother of Jesus, Wife of Joseph,

may the love of the Father who guides and sustains,
and of Jesus Christ in our midst,
enable families to face the storms of life together.
In good times and in bad, may the Good News of Jesus Christ
be a source of light along the way. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 290)

God of Generations,

we thank you for children
and the blessing of your love
from generation to generation. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 14)

Jesus, Friend and Brother,

help families to speak about you,
to pass on their faith,
the beauty of the Gospel and its way of life. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 184)

EXTENDED FAMILY

God of Generations,

a family needs to interact with the wider family
made up of parents, aunts and uncles, cousins and even neighbours.
In these greater families, may each member who is in need
find assistance, companionship, affection and consolation amid
suffering.

May wider family connections bring peace and happiness to all. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 187)

God of Our Parents and Ancestors,

we did not give ourselves life. We received it.
May we feel wonder and appreciation for life,
the first great gift we received. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 188)

ELDERLY

God of Our Elders,

may we be always thankful for our Elders,
for their words, their affection, their presence.

May we value grandparents

who pass important values down to their grandchildren;

Bless grandparents who look after or support Sacraments of Initiation
into Christian life for grandchildren;

all part of an age-old pilgrimage.

May children learn respect for those who came before them. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 192)

God of Life,

may we, your Church, be ready to assist families
who take care of their elderly and infirm members. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 48)



PARENTS, MOTHERS, FATHERS, SINGLE PARENTS, COUPLES WITHOUT CHILDREN, ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE

PARENTS

God of All Parents,

help parents in their serious responsibility
of educating their children.

Help children to honour their fathers and mothers,
in loving appreciation of who they are
and all they have done for their children. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 17)

God of Mothers and Fathers,

each child has a place in your heart from all eternity,
part of your eternal loving plan.

May we see every child with your loving eyes, O God,
from the moment of conception,
the growing embryo, the developing person. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 168)

God of New Life,

for Christian parents, baptism is part of their dream for their child.
Bless each mother and father as they bring their baby forward for
Baptism, and dream of the future of their child. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 169)

God Who Loves Every Child,

may our love as parents
be a way for our child to know your love, O God,
for you await the birth of each child,
and you accept, welcome and love each unconditionally. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 170)

Jesus, Child of Mary and Joseph,

in the gift of their personal name,
in the sharing of language,
in looks of love and the brightness of smiles,
may all children know with certainty, they are loved.
In the circles of family life
may they learn the beauty of human relationships
that touch our soul, seek our freedom, accept differences,
and respect others as partners dialogue. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 172)

MOTHERS AND FATHERS

God of Families,

may the right of every child
to receive love from a mother and a father
be protected, for the love of parents is necessary
and each spouse contributes in a distinct way
to the upbringing of a child.
Bless the love between father and mother,
the source of each child's life and the foundation of their family. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 172)

God of Fathers and Mothers,

may husband and wife, father and mother,
co-operate with your love, Loving God,
for they are your interpreters for their children. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 172)

Mothering God,

help mothers express tenderness, dedication and moral strength.
Help mothers who teach their children the deepest meaning of religious practice in first prayers and acts of devotion. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 174)

God of Tender Care,

may fathers help their children
to be open to challenges and the need for hard work and effort.
May each father express affection and concern for his wife,
knowing he is just as necessary as a caring mother.
May he find the flexibility of roles and responsibilities
needed for the circumstances of his particular family. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 175)

God Our Father,

may the father in the family be close to his wife,
sharing joy and sorrow, hope and hardship.

May he be close to his children as they grow:

- when they play and work;
- when they are carefree or distressed;
- when they are talkative or when they are silent;
- when they are daring or when they are afraid; and
- when they stray or when they get back on the right path.

May fathers be present, not controlling, enabling children to develop.

May children find a loving father waiting for them
when they return home with their problems. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 177)

God Our Father,

we pray for families where there is no father figure,
and for families where this reality
has physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual effects
that gravely affect family life, the upbringing of children
and their integration into society. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 55)

God of Tenderness and Compassion,

may mothers watch over their children
with tenderness and compassion.

May they help them to grow in confidence
and experience the world as a good and welcoming place.

May they help their children grow in self-esteem.
and develop a capacity for intimacy and empathy. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 175)

SINGLE PARENTS

Mary, Mother of God,

may single parent families receive encouragement and support
from other families in the Christian community and their parishes.

May they be especially supported in times of additional hardships,
such as economic difficulties, uncertain employment prospects,
problems with child support and lack of housing. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 252)

God of Loving Care,

bless unmarried people who support their families
and give to others through their professional lives.

Help them when their presence and contributions
are overlooked, and when they feel a sense of isolation.

May their dedication continue to greatly enrich
families, the Church and society. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 158)

PARENTS WITHOUT CHILDREN

God of Hope,

comfort couples who suffer because they are unable to have children.

May each marriage be blessed as a communion of life and love.

May they know that motherhood and fatherhood
are expressed in diverse ways. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 178)

ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE

God of Generosity,

adoption is a very generous way to become parents
and adopting a child is an act of love,
a gift of family to someone who has none.
May those who accept the challenge of adopting
become channels of God's unconditional love. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 179)



CHILDREN, BROTHERS, SISTERS

CHILDREN

God of Life,

bless and deepen the love of all married couples
who become one in self-giving love,
and bless the children born of their love. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 13)

Jesus, Friend of Children,

you were obedient to your earthly parents,
placing yourself under their charge.
In the concern you showed for children,
you even presented them as teachers,
because of their simple trust and spontaneity towards others.
May we adults, who care deeply for the children in our lives,
also be ready to learn from what they can teach us. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 18)

God of the Vulnerable and Innocent,

we pray for those children
who, from the first moments of life,
are rejected, abandoned and robbed of childhood and future.
When a child is born in unwanted circumstances,
may the parents and other family members do everything possible
to accept that child as a gift from God
and love him or her with deep affection. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 166)

God of Our Lives,

heal and strengthen those parents who feel
their child is not coming at the best time.
May every child feel wanted,
for a child is a human being of immense worth, a gift,
and each one is unique and irreplaceable.
May all parents grow in love and wonder,
as they welcome each child and watch each one grow. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 170)

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

God of Our Brothers and Sisters,

may relationships between brothers and sisters
deepen with the passing of time.
May the bond between children in a family
be supported in openness to others, freedom and peace. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 194)

God of All People,

may families introduce children to a spirit of fraternity.
Nourished by affection and education at home,
may this experience in families radiate like a promise
upon the whole of society. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 194)



CHALLENGES, DIFFICULTIES, CRISES, BURDENS & SUFFERING

God of Life,

may couples in difficult situations

have the maturity they need to reaffirm their choice of the other
as their partner on life's journey,

despite the limitations of the relationship.

May they accept that the other cannot fulfil all their cherished dreams.

May they realise that a crisis can, after all, be a new “yes”,

enabling love to be renewed, deepened, strengthened.

When crises come, may they be unafraid to get to the root of them,
renegotiate basic terms, achieve a new equilibrium

and move forward together. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 238)

God of Every Day,

help newly married couples

to accept differences, to disengage from parents and to cope when;

- the arrival of a child presents new emotional challenges
- raising small children brings life-style changes
- the onset of adolescence causes strain, frustration, tension
- an “empty nest” obliges a couple to redefine their relationship
- ageing parents need to be cared for, and difficult decisions needed in their regard.

At each stage of life, give wisdom and strength for the journey. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 235)

God of Comfort,

may your Word be a source of comfort and companionship
for every family experiencing difficulties or suffering.

Give them hope for the time when you

“will wipe away every tear from their eyes,

and death shall be no more;

neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more”^(Rev 21:4). Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 22)

God of the Journey,

may each crisis enable couples to grow closer together

and learn more about what it means to be married.

May each crisis become an opportunity

to let the wine of the relationship age and improve. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 232)

DEATH AND GRIEVING IN FAMILIES

Jesus, Risen Lord,

when family life is challenged by the death of a loved one,

may the light of faith be a support for each family member. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 253)

Comforter of Those Who Mourn,

be with the grieving when they are filled with questions about:

- the reasons why the loved one had to die
- all the things that might have been done
- what a person experiences at the moment of death

May they be given time and support through their grieving.

May peace return. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 255)

God of Life,

may our prayer for those who have died be a way for us to stay close to them.

May our prayer help them and their prayers help us. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 257)

The Joy of Love

Jesus, Risen One,

may those grieving the loss of a loved one,
know that for all death's power, "love is as strong as death" (Song 8:6).
Lord, when your friend Mary tried to embrace you,
you told her not to hold on to you
and you led her to a different kind of encounter.

May the faith of those who grieve help them
to accept that love is indeed stronger than death,
and you, Risen One, have conquered death. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 255)

Jesus, Friend of those who Mourn,

may the grieving be consoled with the knowledge
that for those who die, life is changed, not ended
and their loved ones are in the good strong hands of our eternal God. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 256)

POOR AND DISADVANTAGED, WORK, JUSTICE

God of Compassion,

we pray for the single mother who raises a child alone.
May she find in us, understanding, comfort, acceptance,
your mercy and the healing power of grace. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 49)

God of the Poor,

may we open our doors to greater fellowship with the underprivileged.
When we receive the Eucharist, help us to live all that it means,
for it is the sacrament of love which makes us one body. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 186)

Mary, Mother of God,

may families begin where they are, to live and share the Gospel:

- in solidarity with the poor
- in openness to a diversity of people

The Joy of Love

- in protection of creation
- in moral and material solidarity with other families especially those most in need
- in their commitment to promotion of the common good
- in the transformation of unjust social structures. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 290)

God of Workers,

our work is an essential part of human dignity.

As we work the earth, harness the forces of nature,
produce what we need to live, cultivate our gifts and talents
and sustain the physical wellbeing and tranquillity of families,
bless the work of our hands. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 293)

God of all who Work,

we pray for families whose serenity is impacted because of lack of work.
Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 295)



GOD — FAMILY OF NAZARETH

Trinity God,

your mystery is revealed with the features of a family,
for you, O God, are a loving communion of persons.
Jesus, you heard the Father's voice calling, 'Beloved Son'

The Joy of Love

and in your love we recognise the Holy Spirit.
May families grow as little communities of love,
where each person know they are your 'Beloved One.' Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 71)

Jesus,

your public ministry began with a miracle at a wedding in Cana.
You shared everyday moments of friendship
with the families of Lazarus and his sisters, and Peter.
You sympathised with grieving parents and restored children to life.
You showed the true meaning of mercy in conversations
with a Samaritan woman and a woman found in adultery.
Each encountered your love and care.
May we become more and more like you, in all our encounters. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 64)

Jesus of Nazareth,

the mystery of Christmas and the secret of Nazareth
radiate the beauty of family life and fill us with hope and joy.
May every family, despite weaknesses,
become a light in the world when there is darkness.
May Nazareth teach us the meaning of family life,
its loving communion, its simple beauty and its sacred character. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 65)

Holy Family of Nazareth,

may families find pathways to grow in faith
and ways to pray and celebrate sacraments together,
for "the family that prays together stays together". Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 227)



EDUCATION OF CHILDREN FOR LIFE AND FAITH

Guiding Spirit,

may families be places of support, guidance and direction.

Help parents consider

what they want their children to be exposed to; their entertainment, who enters their rooms through television and electronic devices, and with whom they are spending their free time.

Help parents to be vigilant;

to spend time with their children and speak of important things.

Help parents prepare children and adolescents

to confront the risks of aggression, abuse or drug addiction, for they cannot control or dominate every situation a child may experience.

Give parents the ability to lovingly help their children

grow in freedom, maturity, discipline and real autonomy.

Helped by their parents, may children gain the ability to fend for themselves and to act intelligently and prudently

whenever they meet with difficulties. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 260 - 261)

God of Fathers and Mothers,

may parents be aware

of the convictions, goals, desires and dreams of their children asking.

"Do we try to understand 'where' our children really are in their journey?

Where is their soul? Do we really know and do we want to know?"

Help parents find positive life-giving answers to these questions. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 261)

Sheltering God,

help families create environments where positive habits are developed and important values become sound and steady ways of acting.

May children learn to say “Please”, “Thank you” and “Sorry”.

May strengthening of will, with positive actions repeated, form the building blocks of a sound moral education for children. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 266)

God of Truth and Justice,

may parents help their children realise that misbehaviour has consequences.

May they teach their children to put themselves in other people’s shoes to acknowledge any hurt they have caused. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 268)

Jesus, Friend of Children,

may children feel cared for when they are lovingly corrected.

May they know they are individuals whose potential is recognised.

May adults remember that some kinds of misbehaviour have to do with the frailty and limitations typical of youth. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 269)

God of Freedom,

help parents find ways to teach their children

how to make good decisions,

knowing that real freedom is limited, conditioned,

and free of compulsions. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 273)

God of Wise Choices,

may children learn to critically evaluate the messages sent by media and advertising, especially those that may negatively influence

and undercut the values of family life.

Give them your gifts of wisdom and serenity. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis’ ‘The Joy of Love’, *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 274)

God of the Future,

help families make good decisions about social media,
so these may draw them together, not keep them apart.

Help families to avoid dinner times

when everyone is surfing on a mobile phone.

Help them when one spouse falls asleep waiting for the other
who spends hours playing with an electronic device. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 278)

God of Communication,

may adults help children and adolescents find positive ways to use
social media and be protected from the risks that new forms of
communication can pose.

Help young people to stay free from the apathy and disconnection from
the real world that new media may foster.

Protect children from easy exposure to manipulation

by those who would invade private space with selfish interests.

Protect families and their children. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 278)

God of Love,

fill the hearts of parents with love as they hand on faith to their children.
May families be supported in their role as the first teachers of faith for
their children. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 287)

God of Love,

may the work of handing on faith to children become a blessing for the
whole family, overflowing in the sharing of faith and life
with those beyond the family circle. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 289)

God of Faithful Love,

may spouses find time to be alone for prayer.

May they tell you their troubles and ask you for healing and help. Amen.

(Prayer based on Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love', *Amoris Laetitia*, paragraph 227)



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST