Year of the Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, you bless us with the gifts of life and love so powerfully present in our midst through families.

In praise of your gifts we offer you in return our commitment to love and care for one another as family – as our own family, as church family and as part of the great human family.

In whatever state of life we find ourselves, whether married or single, widowed or divorced, clergy or religious, young or elderly or in complicated situations, may your love be real and deeply felt.

Bestow your blessings on mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers. Bless brothers and sisters. Embrace those who are alone and feel that they are abandoned. Make us one family for you are Our Father, and we your children. Make our home a dwelling place of love, respect, understanding, forgiveness and support.

In sickness and in health, in poverty and plenty, in joy and in sorrow, may we never give up on each other, may we never give up on our families, may we never give up on your extraordinary gift of family life.

We ask the intercession of Mary, our mother and Joseph, her spouse, who cared for Jesus in Nazareth, who is our Lord for ever and ever. Amen.