



Day of Prayer: 2pm Prayers for Children

Gracious God, those of us who have children are enormously grateful for the gift. Despite the heartaches there is huge fun and privilege in this responsibility, and a glimpse of both the joy and cost of your 'parenting' to humankind. Again this day we entrust our children and any we know to you praying that you would bless them.

Gracious God, children in our culture are under enormous pressure to conform and succeed, to be attractive and popular. They have to grow up too fast and be wise too young. Give them courage to resist these pressures and to find their own path. Give them families, friends and role models who build their confidence and self-belief. By your spirit open their eyes to see Jesus as their rock, the one that will light the path of life before them.

Gracious God we pray for those of our children who have extra challenges to face as they learn about life and what they can do and be. We pray for those who have learning difficulties or long-term health issues, those with visual impairments or hearing problem, those who are bullied and tragically those who are abused. Loving Lord surround these special children with both personal and professional support; give them friends to listen to them and your grace to overcome challenges that they face.

Gracious God, may your church be a good home for all children. Encourage us to adapt our ways to the ways of your kingdom for Jesus said unless we accept the kingdom like a child we will not be able to enter it. May the church be a community of grace for all humanity.

Prayer Points:

- For those who care for children who are ill
- For those who wish they had children, including those receiving IVF treatment
- For the children in our parish and all who guide them in their faith
- For children who are abused
- For children who have no home
- For children who seek an adoptive family
- For children who live in poverty