

A Prayer of All Ages

[From Donal Harrington & Julie Kavanagh, *Prayer for Parish Groups*]

Let us pray for all people of all ages, for all who, young or old, belong to each other and go through life together. Let us pray that we may care for and respect each other, that we may not be divided, but may with one mind try to achieve happiness.

For Children

Let us pray for all children, for a happy childhood, and for all among us who are defenseless and small. Let us pray that nothing may harm them, that their lives may not become distorted and perverse; that we do not give them scandal or teach them to hate, but that we may lead them to know the truths; that we may have courage to protect the vulnerable, the immature, the inexperienced among us.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear our prayer.

For Young People

Let us pray for our young people, whose lives lie ahead of them, that they may go forward with open and receptive minds to meet the future; that they may learn to live with life's uncertainties and face up to disappointments; that they may learn to accept themselves and not lose heart. Let us pray that their wisdom and commitment may be appreciated by older people, so that they may have the scope to change the face of the church and the world.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear our prayer.

For Adults

Let us pray for those who are in the prime of life, that their lives may be fruitful, that they may not be self-seeking, but seek the welfare of others. We pray for all adults, whether married or single, that they may not be lonely, complacent or closed to others, but that they may go on seeking each others' friendship. Let us pray also for those who cannot find satisfaction and those who have failed, in work or in life, that they may place their hopes in the future and not lose faith in God, our protector who does not want us to be lost.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear our prayer.

For Older People

Let us pray for all old people, that they may stay young in heart, that they may have wisdom and openness, and not be conservative or envious, but that they may allow latitude to younger people. Let us pray for the aged, that they may not be left behind in life, but still put their experience to good use in the service of others.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer

Father, protect those you have given to your Son Jesus,
so that your people may be one, as you and Jesus are one.
With your Spirit alive among us, may the world know
that you love your people even as you love Jesus.
May the light of Jesus shine in our lives.
May we love him and keep him among us,
today and every day, world without end.

Amen