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Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for July



Our Families

Lord, we pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance. We pray for those who have no family – help us to be the family they so desperately need. Amen.

Word of the Week



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

For many families accross the world, it has been a devastating year. Many have lost loved ones, have not been able to see family members and have felt the strain of isolation, financial struggle and uncertainty.

Pope Francis is therefore inviting us to pray with him for families: "that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance."



A Perfect Intention



When Pope Francis decided, in consultation with the leaders of his worldwide prayer-group, on the intentions that would be presented to us each month this year, none of us had heard of COVID. Now, halfway through the calendar year, it is the backdrop to everything we pray, say and do. There are signs of hope in some places that it might be ending and signs of magnificent great love in the efforts of healthcare professionals in particular and essential workers everywhere. At every time of prayer in these days, we must pray for them and in thanks for their magnificent service of others.



We know that families come in all different shapes and sizes – there are all kinds of families throughout the world. Some people feel like they don't have any family, but Pope Francis encourages us to be mindful that we are all part of a family much bigger than who we are related to or who takes care of us. We are all part of the human family.

The Human Family.

Being a member of the wider human family comes with many responsibilities. Just as a parent may care for a child or a young person care for an elderly person, we must remember our duty to care for our friends and neighbours – for they too are our family.

Love, respect and guidance must be at the heart of everything we do – this should extend to everyone we meet and not just limited to those we live with whom we may call family.

What does family mean to you?

Do you consider your friends your family?

Do you consider your neighbours your family?

Have you witnessed any examples of love and kindness from one member of our human family to another throughout lockdown?



LOVE
makes a family



Let us pray with the Pope: Watch the video below of Pope Francis introducing his prayer intention in more detail.

<https://twitter.com/Pontifex/status/1278701210657161216?s=20>

