

Men:

May the father, Son and Holy Spirit protect
all mothers:

May the Holy Trinity protect you

May the Three of limitless love renew you

So that

An island shall you be in our seas

A light shall you be in our nights

A well shall you be in our deserts

Until heaven's arms enfold you, too.

All:

May God bless all our children:

The family of God to draw round you

The family of God to welcome you

The family of God to listen to you

The family of God to cherish you

The family of God to heal you

Mary the mother of our Lord

Joseph at his work

All the saints of heaven

And we your loved ones

Encircle you with love.



-adapted from R. Simpson,

Celtic Blessings

Closing Prayer: Teach Us To Love

Parent of us all,

Accept our thanks for the joys of family life.

Help us to live so that we can strengthen

and enrich this life.

May our family welcome with you,

The stranger,

The lonely,

And the needy.

Teach us to love the family of us all traveling together on this planet

And help us to realize our part in it;

In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask this.

Amen

-source unknown

Let us end our time together praying the words that
Jesus taught us. Our Father...

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo

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Family Of God



"Let parents bequeath to their children
not riches, but the spirit of reverence".

—Plato

Opening Prayer

Sustainer of Life, and Consoler to all,
You care for us and protect us
Like a mother and a father.
Teach us to be patient and kind,
Honest and gentle, and most of all,
At peace with the people with whom we live.
Guide us to live as a holy family,
United in respect and love.
Bring us to the joy and peace
Of your eternal home.

All: Amen.

—Tony Civichino

Reader One:

Brother Jesus,
You know all about families...
A family that people talk about in whispers
A family with a pregnant bride
A refugee family.
You know our difficulties and struggles.

Reader Two:

But you also know our joys,
The deep peace that comes from deep com-
munion between parent and child,

The trust and warmth that you knew as you
played at Mary & Joseph's feet,

The deep understanding as you "grew and
became strong, filled with wisdom; and the
favour of God..." (Luke 2:40)

First Reader:

As children, may we be trusting with our parents
as you were with your father, your Abba, your
daddy.

May we honour our parents with obedience and
devotion to goodness as you did.

May we learn to love as you loved, breaking
down barriers of fear and ignorance.

Second Reader:

Dear Jesus, you are close to us in our parenting:

In our teaching and our healing;

In our moments of triumph;

In our moments of brokenness;

In our despair and our hope.

Hold us close always.

-Les Miller



A Blessing of Family Members

Women:

Let us bless fathers:

God help you to

Listen to your loved ones

Play with your loved ones

Laugh with your loved ones

Weep with your loved ones

Forgive with your loved ones

Take responsibility for your loved ones

Be faithful to your loved ones

Forever.

Bless you fathers,

May you be priests

to your wives and children.

