

Circular
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One Million Children Praying the Rosary

Beloved clergy, consecrated persons, parents, young people, and my dear children in Jesus Christ:

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)

At a time when numerous people across various parts of the world are suffering due to war, violence, persecution, and poverty, the Diocese of Idukki affectionately invites all children to join the global prayer initiative organised by ACN International, titled "One Million Children Praying the Rosary," with the objective of praying for world peace through the innocent offering of the Rosary by children.

This prayer campaign has now transformed into a magnificent testimony of faith, uniting children from the continents of Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Australia. When children of diverse languages, cultures, and living circumstances recite the Rosary together for the singular intention of world peace and unity, we are enabled to experience the universality of the Church and the limitless power of prayer.

On 1 October 2026, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, leading the recitation of the Rosary for world peace with children at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens, provides an opportunity for parishes, schools, and families around the globe to spiritually unite in that same intention. Furthermore, this prayer initiative will be observed as a week of prayer from 1 October to 7 October, culminating on 7 October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. During these days, it is affectionately reminded that children should be gathered together in all our parishes, schools, faith formation centres, and homes to actively participate in this global prayer.

Initiated in 2005 from a prayer campaign conducted together by a few children in Venezuela, this undertaking has grown over the past two decades into a substantial spiritual movement uniting children and families on a global scale. The vision of Saint Padre Pio—"When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change"—provides the driving energy for this prayer campaign.

This year's prayer campaign aims at the joyful message of hope contained within the Fatima message: "Finally, My Immaculate Heart will triumph". In a contemporary world filled with fear, divisions, and insecurity, may the prayer of children become a brilliant testimony of faith and peace.

May the Rosary in the hands of our children become a weapon for world peace; may the prayers rising from their pure hearts become solace and hope for a suffering world.

Holy Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, make our children, our families, and the entire world instruments of world peace.

Affectionately in Jesus Christ,

Your Father,

Mar John Nellikkunnel

Bishop of Idukki