

MARY WARD FAMILY CHILD LABOUR PLEDGE PRAYER FOR 12 JULY

Loving God, you gather children to your heart.

In many parts of our world children are enjoying a summer holiday marked by freedom, innocence, and joy.

On this day, with the worldwide Mary Ward family, we pray for:

- *children picking coffee and cacao beans for our enjoyment
- *children working on farms and the streets to support their families
- *children unable to attend school due to their work commitments
- *children trafficked to provide income for impoverished families

Open our eyes to the truth we cannot un-see.

Open our minds to ask difficult questions.

Open our ears to the cry of the children.

Open our hearts to parents who must send their children out to work.

Open our homes, workplaces, and communities to life-giving purchasing decisions.

We make this and all our prayers in Your Most Holy Name, now and for ever ... Amen.

Venerable Mary Ward, pray for us and give us your spirit.