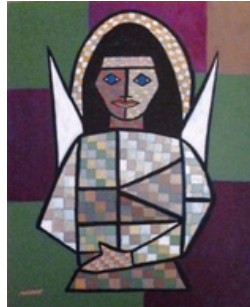


Family Prayer Angels

by Jacinta Roberts | Identity and Encounter



Bless the Lord, all you his angels, mighty in power,
fulfilling his word, and heeding his voice.

From Psalm 102:20

Speaking to Country

This prayer was written on Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Country. I pay my respects to the Elders past and present, for they are the knowledge holders, the storytellers and teachers in the family, community and beyond. We can learn so much from First Nations peoples on this Country and across other parts of the Diocese about being in relationship with others and the world.

As I gaze across to the mountains beyond the Inlet, having come across creeks and rivers in my journey to get here, I am reminded of the great gifts the land and waterways are to all who live here, and all those who visit here, as they have been to the Yidinji people for so long. Take some time now to notice where you are. What elements of Country are you drawn to? Which give you life and energy? Who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands, seas and waterways of your place? Take time to acknowledge them now.

I thank the First Peoples from across our Diocese, for their Spirituality and for their gift of who they are. May we continue to work towards a spirit of collaboration and celebration of culture and a sustainable future where the land is nurtured, respected, and shared by all.

Context

In the Catholic Church there are two special days in which we celebrate God's holy angels. The first, a feast, is for Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels, on September 29. The second, a memorial, is for The Holy Guardian Angels on October 2.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read that, "Angels are spiritual creatures who glorify God without ceasing and who serve his saving plans for other creatures: 'The angels work together for the benefit of us all' (St. Thomas Aquinas)." ¹ We are surrounded by their care and intercession as they allow us to encounter God. Angels, "communicate God's love and presence to us on earth." ²

Guardian angels are protectors, defenders, helpers and guides. In the Catholic tradition, many believe that they are always with us. St Carlo Acutis had a particular faith and interest in angels. There are many stories in the Old and New Testaments that include appearances from angels. They appear to prophets, disciples, Mary the Mother of Jesus and even shepherds.



Scripture: Matthew 18:1-5.10

The disciples came to Jesus and said, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' So he called a little child to him and set the child in front of them. Then he said, 'I tell you solemnly, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. And so, the one who makes himself as little as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

'Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Reflection

The possibility of angels reminds us that God knows and cares for each one of us. For many, this is a comforting thought. Sometimes, God might feel beyond our reach, distant or hidden.

When do we most feel the love of God? Where do we see God at work in our world?

How can we bring the love of God to others?

Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here:
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.

Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, pray for us.



Call to Action

- Create a card or with a special message on it for someone. Leave it where they might find it, as a surprise.
- Share some examples of people who protect, defend, guide and help others, or perhaps those who share God's message with others. Pray for them or thank them for what they do.

References

[1] Catechism of the Catholic Church, (Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1993), para. 350

[2] "Angels," Archdiocese of Boston, Accessed September 15, 2026. <https://bostoncatholic.org/angels>

Figure 1: Frank Humphrey Allen Acrylic on panel. <http://sacredartmeditations.com/themes/detail/36>

Figure 2: Unknown Haitian Artist Hammered metal rondo

Figure 3: Josephine Mahaffey Watercolor