



Vox Populi

21 August 2025

This Wednesday 27 August, and Thursday 28 August, the Church celebrates the Memorials of Saint Augustine and Saint Monica, two great Saints of the 4th century.

Together they represent a rare combination in the Church: a parent and their child canonised as Saints.

Through the example of the Holy Family, we have the pinnacle example of what a saintly family should be, but in the figures of Saint Monica and Saint Augustine we see what can sometimes be more of a reality for our families.

Not all families are perfect, or even united. We can go through periods of stress or separation, but this never negates the call to Holiness.

Saint Monica suffered the adultery of a husband and the waywardness of a child, yet never ceased praying for them. Through her efforts and prayers, Saint Augustine would become reunited with the Church, and go on to be one of its greatest saints. Despite their imperfections, the family is called to be a domestic Church.

In his homily for the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly, Bishop Anthony Randazzo said families are the “treasure of the Church”.

‘That *we are all God’s children*, is the foundation of Christian hope. And it is the heartbeat of the family, which is the first school of love, the sanctuary of life, and the mirror of God’s presence in the world,” he said.

“My dear people, families, grandparents, children, and elders: You are the treasure of the Church. You are not forgotten. You are not alone. God is with you.”

May all our families, regardless of their imperfections, be places of love and hope. And may Saint Monica and Saint Augustine be a witness to the power of silent prayers and a sign that God never abandons His children.

