



Christmas Day

WMOF Icon of the Holy Family

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

Copies of the World Meeting of Families Icon of the Holy Family are distributed to all parishes. Parishes are asked to distribute the icons to all who attend Christmas Masses for display in their homes. The icon will include the official WMOF prayer. A large copy of the icon will also be available for display in each church.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- Christmas is a time associated with families coming together. In *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis says that 'every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family'. This initiative invites families to gather around the icon of the Holy Family in their own home on Christmas Day and to pray together.



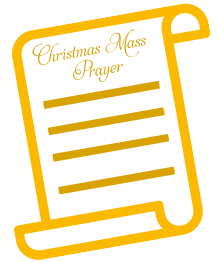
Sisters from the Monastery of St Alphonsus, Dublin, working on the official Icon of the Holy Family for World Meeting of Families 2018.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 The basic task is to arrange for an efficient and effective means of distributing the icons at the Christmas Masses.
- 2 Promote awareness of the icon initiative during Advent.
- 3 During the blessing of the crib, place the large icon near to the crib.
- 4 Organise volunteers for each of the Christmas Masses to take up suitable positions in the church and distribute the icons at the end of Mass.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- Copies of the icon will be sent directly to each parish.
- Promotional material for inclusion in the bulletin and for explaining the symbolism of the icon are available online.
- A Christmas Mass Prayer of the Faithful for families is also available on the website.

