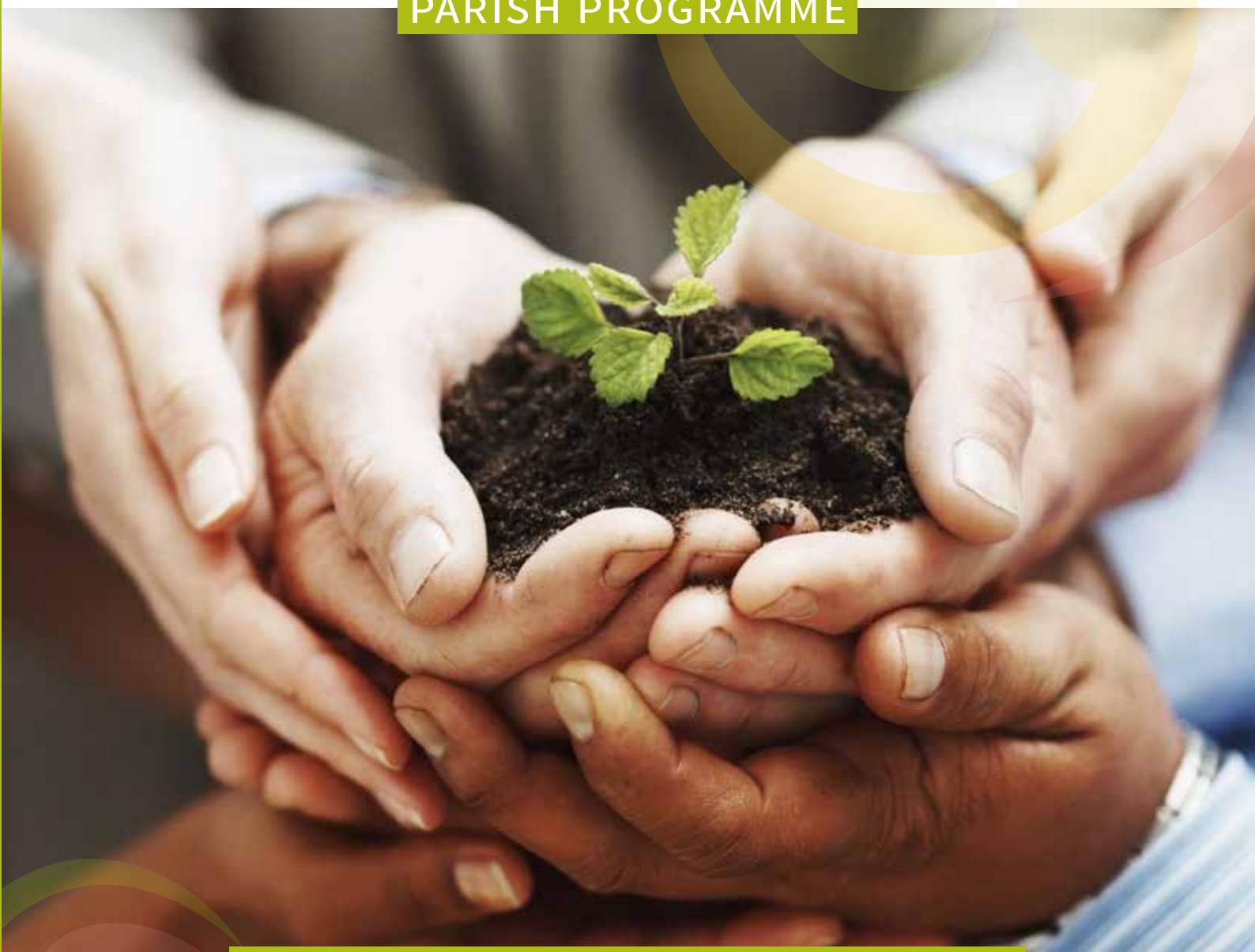


Amoris

Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!

PARISH PROGRAMME



**Practical Initiatives
for Popular Moments**

Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!

PARISH PROGRAMME

Practical Initiatives for Popular Moments



FOREWORD

In his apostolic exhortation *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis expresses his hope that families and those involved in supporting families will study his document carefully and patiently. This *Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!* programme is an initiative to promote and resource this study in preparation for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018. It has a number of elements:

- *The Joy of Love: Six-Session Parish Conversation* is a parish-based programme that explores key messages in *The Joy of Love* in an accessible and practical way.
- *Practical Initiatives for Popular Moments* offers a menu of activities that tie in with popular family moments to communicate key messages from *The Joy of Love*.
- A range of online resources will appear during the course of the year, including animations on *The Joy of Love* for both adults and children, as well as studio discussions and interviews.
- *A Facilitator's Guide* is also available to train local volunteers in delivering the *Amoris* programme.

All of these resources are available online at www.amoris.ie or www.worldmeeting2018.ie. While focusing especially on *The Joy of Love*, the *Amoris* programme also draws on two other key documents in Pope Francis' ministry: *Praise Be (On the Care of our Common Home)* and *The Joy of the Gospel*.

This *Amoris* programme seeks to fulfil some of the aims of *Share the Good News: The National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland*. The directory sees that 'the parish community is the focal point of faith development in all its forms' (130). The directory also sees the importance of a multi-

media approach to faith development with adults. 'Information technology and other new and varied methods of communication should also be utilised. For adults, with a premium on their time, distance learning can be helpful' (75).

The facilitator's guide offers a practical means of calling and forming laypeople in the parish to take co-responsibility for the development and implementation of local faith development initiatives. The directory is clear on this. 'Collaborative teamwork is to be chosen decisively and encouraged wholeheartedly' (87). Here it quotes Pope Benedict XVI: 'It is precisely your task, dear parish priests, to nurture the spiritual and apostolic growth of those who are already committed to working hard in the parishes. They form the core of the community that will act as a leaven for the others.'

The directory also acknowledges the need for a gradual and differentiated approach to adult faith development in parishes. 'For some adults, introductory material may be sufficient, while others may be interested in deeper theological discussion' (74). In that spirit, the *Amoris* programme includes a menu of initiatives, from one-off parish activities at popular family events through to a programme of conversation on *The Joy of Love*. This menu seeks to engage as many people as possible in faith development at a level they are comfortable with, and then invites them into further reflection and conversation on the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The World Meeting of Families and its preparatory catechesis offer dioceses and parishes an opportunity to progress their faith development work in a way that has potential to connect with the popular imagination in a manner that sustains beyond the event itself.

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INTRODUCTION

It is Pope Francis' wish that as many people as possible hear about *The Joy of Love*. That is the challenge for parishes, especially in the year coming up to the World Meeting of Families. How do we go about this? One simple way is a discussion programme about the key messages in *The Joy of Love*, providing an opportunity for people to engage in conversation about what they have heard. *The Joy of Love: Six-Session Parish Conversation* is such a programme. Pope Francis challenges us to be creative in how we engage people with the Gospel message. In his *Joy of the Gospel*, the Pope speaks about the need to go to where people are, to speak in a language they understand and to use means of communication with which they are comfortable. Not everybody is comfortable in a structured adult religious education setting, no matter how relaxed and welcoming it is.

Practical Initiatives for Popular Moments is a menu of activities to engage the parish with the key

messages in *The Joy of Love*. It starts by identifying key moments throughout the year that are popular with people – people know about them and feel at home in them. The activities seek to communicate something of the Good News from *The Joy of Love* that connects with people at those moments, whether it is St Patrick's Day, St Valentine's Day, Christmas Day or Confirmation Day.

As a parish, you should select from this menu some activities that you feel you could run. Offer them to people as best you can. Thank those who engage. And when you are running the discussion programme later in the year let those people know they are welcome to come along. In the *Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!* programme, this menu of parish activities and *The Joy of Love: Six-Session Parish Conversation* complement each other. They both seek in their own way to touch people with Good News from *The Joy of Love*.





Official Family Prayer for World Meeting of Families 2018

God, our Father,
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,
One family, in the Spirit of your love.

Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,
gentle and generous,
welcoming to those in need.
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care,
Especially those for whom we now pray:

*(We pause and remember family members
and others by name.)*

Increase our faith,
Strengthen our hope,
Keep us safe in your love,
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.
Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.
Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.





Baptism



Commemorative Gift for Children Being Baptised

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

A commemorative card for each child baptised in the year leading up to the World Meeting of Families 2018.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- The commemorative cards will be in the parish from early September and are free of charge.
- It is recommended that the gift be presented during the ritual after the naming of the child.
- The minister of the sacrament is encouraged to draw attention to the quotation on the card from *The Joy of Love*.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- To highlight for the family and all those attending the ceremony a core message about Baptism in *The Joy of Love*.



“For God allows parents to choose the name by which He Himself will call their child for all eternity,”





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1** A set of cards has been sent from the World Meeting of Families office to each parish.
- 2** If there is a Baptism team in your parish – let them know about this commemorative gift and invite them to incorporate the card into their preparations with the family.





Marriage



Commemorative Gift for Couples Marrying in the Church

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

A commemorative card with a blessing, suitable for framing, to mark the World Meeting of Families. The card will be offered to each couple getting married in a Catholic church in Ireland for the year up to August 2018.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- The commemorative cards are available at the local diocesan office.
- A short explanatory note on the gift is available online.
- There is no charge for the cards.



WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- This is an opportunity to communicate to the couple and those attending the wedding ceremony the core message about marriage in *The Joy of Love*.



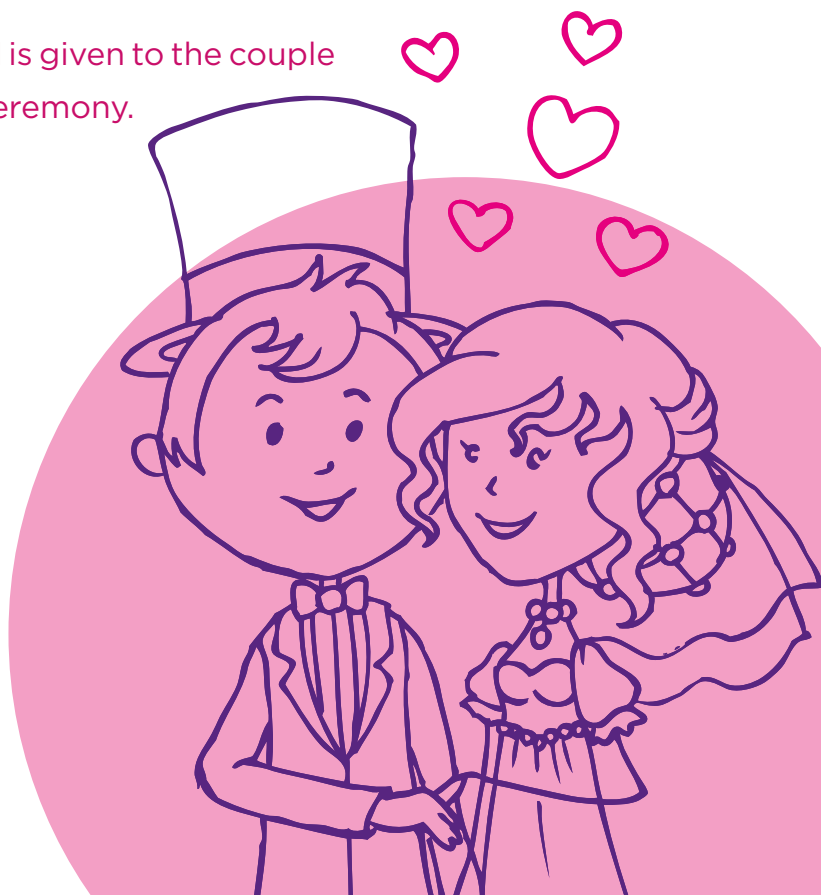
“Lord, give us this day
our daily love,”





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1** The commemorative cards are held in each diocesan office.
- 2** The parish simply contacts the office at least a month in advance of each wedding, giving the names of the couples to be married.
- 3** The commemorative card, with the couple's names and signed blessing from the bishop, will be sent to the parish.
- 4** The commemorative card is given to the couple as part of the wedding ceremony.





Communion

First Communion Gift for the Family and Child – The *Amoris* Cube!

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

The *Amoris* cube is a flat-packed toy for a family game. The six sides of this foam cube display simple messages from *The Joy of Love*. The family puts the cube together and rolls it from time to time. Whatever message comes up the family seeks to put into practice that day.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- The *Amoris* cubes ordered are free of charge (except for packaging and post) for a limited time. Get your order in early to avail of this offer. Orders must come through the parish.
- In the case of small numbers of First Communion children especially, we encourage parishes to order with neighbouring parishes.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1** Make a decision in the autumn if you want to include the *Amoris* cube in your First Communion ceremony.
- 2** Place an order with the World Meeting of Families for the required number (one per child) before Christmas.
- 3** Promote the initiative at the parents' meeting utilising our online information sheet.
- 4** Decide where and how you want to present the gift to the children at the First Communion ceremony.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- First Communion is a major family event in Irish society. This initiative offers a simple and fun way of communicating to the families some of the core messages of *The Joy of Love*.





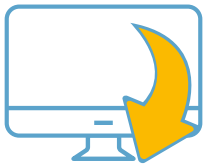
Confirmation

Céad Míle Fáilte

‘One Hundred Thousand Acts of Kindness’ as a Gift to Pope Francis and the World Meeting of Families from Children Making their Confirmation in 2018

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

A challenge to the Confirmation candidates to live out *The Joy of Love* by showing acts of kindness to their family, friends and community. A template of actions is offered on our website, along with the facility to log each act of kindness. Using these it will be possible to create an online graphic that keeps track of the number of acts of kindness undertaken with a view to reaching the target of one hundred thousand.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

The following resources are available on our website:

- An information sheet for the Confirmation candidates covering the kinds of actions they are invited to take on, some key points from *The Joy of Love* that relate to those actions, and instructions on how they can log on to the website to record each act of kindness.
- The online facility for recording the acts.
- Promotional material for use in explaining the initiative to the candidates, their parents and the wider community.
- A certificate of participation.
- Some liturgical resources on the initiative for the Confirmation ceremony.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1** Each diocese will be invited to promote this initiative through the diocesan primary schools advisors.
- 2** Make contact with your primary school early in the year to establish if it will engage with the initiative.
- 3** Download and copy the information sheet on the one hundred thousand acts of kindness challenge.
- 4** Speak to the class about the challenge and invite them to engage.
- 5** Log acts of kindness in the school or parish once a week.
- 6** Plan the Confirmation ceremony to include:
 - Bringing up the log of the acts of kindness in the offertory procession.
 - Presenting certificates of participation to the candidates.



WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- This is an opportunity to communicate some of the key messages in *The Joy of Love* to young people, and to challenge them in an imaginative way to put those messages into practice.





Trócaire Romero Family Award



WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

Trócaire

Trócaire is calling upon all parishes in Ireland to take on the Romero Award as part of their preparations for the World Meeting of Families. Inspired by Blessed Óscar Romero and his concern for the poor and oppressed, the Romero Award aims to provide parishes, families, schools, the youth and individuals with an avenue to express their solidarity with their brothers and sisters who are suffering as a result of injustices and inequalities in our world.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

In *The Joy of Love* Pope Francis says God has called on families to make the world our common home, 'helping each person to see fellow human beings as brothers and sisters'. This initiative seeks to put this into practice. In making Óscar Romero blessed, Pope Francis has set him before the world as an example to follow. Blessed Óscar Romero, a great modern-day saint, challenged both the Church and the society in which he lived.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- Simply log on to www.trocaire.org/parish to register for this award.
- Resources for your parish will also be available on the WMOF website.
- If you would like to speak to a Trócaire staff member about this award, or for more information about how you, your family, your parish, your school or your community can get involved, please contact the church officer at churchofficer@trocaire.org or (01) 629 3333.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

It is awarded to those who can show how they have highlighted some form of injustice in our world. Romero Award participants have encouraged people to walk or cycle to church or school, to install solar panels in their local parish, created a local media campaign about homelessness, started a local soup kitchen, hosted a wilderness meal during Lent, knitted solidarity blankets for women and children in Gaza – the list is endless. The award celebrates what you have already done and inspires you to do more. It helps you, your family and your community to live more justly!

- 1 Identify people in the parish who will help with this project.
- 2 Register your interest for the award at www.trocaire.org/parish at any time of the year.
- 3 We'll support you with resources and the opportunity to share ideas and experiences.
- 4 Decide upon an injustice to focus on within your parish/home.
- 5 Develop a simple action plan.
- 6 When you're ready, we'll come and visit your community, find out what you've been doing and help you to celebrate and share your achievements.
- 7 Submit details of your project and evidence of shared learnings.
- 8 Join us at an event during the WMOF to celebrate your achievements.





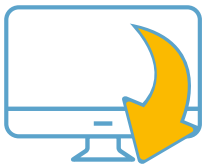
October

Society of Missionary Children's Family Album



WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

This is an initiative from the Society of Missionary Children (SMC), the Pope's official children's charity for overseas missions. The intention is to create an art exhibition on family life in Ireland. Families – both children and adults – are invited to create their own artwork. These are gathered for a parish exhibition. In conjunction with the SMC the artwork is digitally photographed and submitted for display at the World Meeting of Families in August 2018.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- Information about the Society of Missionary Children's Family Album is available online at www.wmi.ie and on the WMOF website.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

Pope Francis says that through beauty, artists make the world better. He also says that living together is an art; a patient, beautiful, fascinating journey. So, what better way to express the art of living together as family than through art? Art starts a dialogue and provides families with so much to talk about. As a family of families, parishes will benefit from great opportunities to bring families together to talk and learn about family through their artwork.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

The basic task is to encourage families in the parish to participate as creatively as possible in an art exhibition showcasing what family means to them.

- 1 A parish committee should be appointed to organise an exhibition of all the submissions.
- 2 The parish distributes promotional leaflets about the family album. This can be at weekend Masses, in parish newsletters, through community organisations, senior-cycle classes, house-to-house visitations and so on.
- 3 Artists can use any type of paper and their work may be drawn or painted using any materials. The size of artwork should not be smaller than A4 (29.7cm x 21.0cm) or larger than A2 (59.4cm x 42.0cm). All pieces should be submitted in flat format only, not rolled, folded or framed. The artist should put their name and age on the reverse side of their work.
- 4 The Society of Missionary Children will then seek the assistance of parishes to photograph all the submissions and forward them by email to missionarychildren@wmi.ie for display as a digital art exhibition during the World Meeting of Families in Dublin between 21 and 26 August 2018.
- 5 The Society of Missionary Children will be seeking submissions to the family album from 1 October 2017 until 31 July 2018.





November

Family Prayer Service

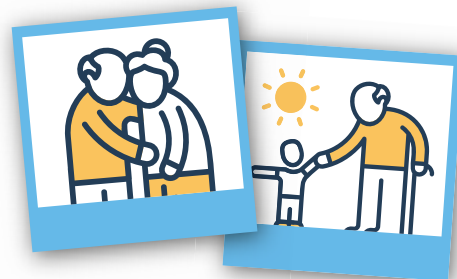
Remembering Our Deceased Loved Ones

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

The family prepares together the November dead list. They say a prayer together. They create a small sacred memorial space in their home for the month of November.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- In *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis says of those from our families who have died, 'we continue to love them now that they are elsewhere. They can no longer be physically present to us, yet for all death's power, "love is as strong as death" (Song 8:6).'
- This initiative encourages the family to come together in their own home to remember prayerfully their dead loved ones. It offers them ideas on praying for their dead family members and how to create a memorial space in the home for November.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 Announce the initiative in October.
- 2 Distribute November dead list template and explanatory leaflet.
- 3 Parish receives the lists to be placed in the sanctuary throughout November.
- 4 Plan a family Mass for the deceased.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

The following resources are all available on our website:

- An explanatory leaflet.
- A November dead list template.
- An invitation to the Mass/remembrance service.

“ Love is as strong as death ,





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.



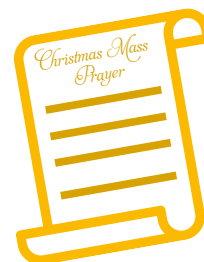
Sisters from the Monastery of St Alphonsus, Dublin, working on the official Icon of the Holy Family for World Meeting of Families 2018.





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.





January

Family New Year's Resolutions

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

An opportunity for a family conversation on the question: Are there any new year's resolutions we want to make as a family?

A simple family new year's resolution sheet is available to download. This is connected with a few key points on family life from *The Joy of Love*. This is promoted in the parish around the new year, particularly on the Feast of the Holy Family.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- A family new year's resolution sheet is available on the WMOF website and can be downloaded, copied and distributed.
- Alternatively, families can be encouraged to download the sheet themselves.



How much better family life would be if every day we lived according to the words, “please”, “thank you” and “I’m sorry”





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 Decide on how you want to promote this initiative, by downloading, copying and distributing the materials, or by promoting their availability on the website.
- 2 Promote the initiative at the Masses in the lead up to the new year, especially weekend Masses on 30 and 31 December, which celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.
- 3 Pray the official WMOF prayer during the Mass of the Feast of the Holy Family. Encourage families to pray the prayer together and sign the resolution sheet, displaying it in a prominent place in the home.



WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- New year's resolutions are part of the popular culture. Inviting families to consider family resolutions offers an interesting development on this practice.
- Some of the practical suggestions that Pope Francis makes on how we care for each other in family can be popularised through this initiative.





February

St Valentine's Day Gift Tokens

Celebrating the Joy of Love on Valentine's Day



WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

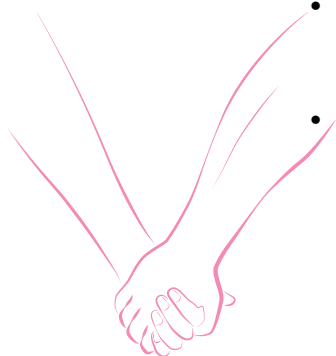
A non-commercial gift token given to a loved one that focuses on quality time together. The person receiving the gift can redeem it at the time of their choice. Each token entitles the recipient to one of a number of gifts including:

- A hand-in-hand walk together.
- A special meal cooked for them.
- A journey down memory lane where time is set aside to remember the couple's journey together.
- A technology-free evening together.
- Prayer time together.



WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- In *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis says that St Valentine's Day is an opportunity for couples to celebrate the depth and beauty of romantic love in a way that goes beyond commercial interests.
- St Valentine's Day is also an opportunity for the Church to promote its positive vision for that romantic love.
- In 2018 Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday. This provides an ideal opportunity to encourage couples to think 'outside the chocolate box' and give each other non-material gifts that help deepen their relationship.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

The basic task is to promote awareness of the gift tokens among couples in the parish in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day. This includes giving information on where the tokens can be accessed in the parish and online.

1 Make the gift tokens available in a variety of accessible venues – including local shops and the church.

2 Distribute promotional leaflets about the tokens to target groups, e.g. at weekend Masses, through community organisations, senior-cycle classes, during house-to-house visitations and so on.

3 In the autumn, plan how you will promote the initiative. This includes deciding:

- how you will promote the Valentine's gift tokens.
- where you will host the tokens.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- A pack of gift tokens will be sent by the WMOF office to each parish in the autumn.
- An explanatory leaflet is available to be downloaded from the WMOF website. It is called 'Thinking Outside the Chocolate Box'.
- Promotional material for local newspapers and the parish bulletin are also available for downloading.
- These resources are free of charge.





March

St Patrick's Day

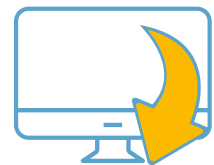


WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

The original meaning of the shamrock as a symbol of the Trinity is promoted through the distribution of window stickers, car bumper stickers and other materials. This initiative promotes the message 'God is family, so are we', highlighted by Pope Francis in *The Joy of Love*.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- Window and bumper stickers with the theme 'God is family, so are we' will be distributed free of charge to every parish in the country.
- Colouring pages, banner designs and posters will be available for download from the WMOF website.
- Prayers of the faithful and reflections on what the theme 'God is family, so are we' means will be available to download from the WMOF website.



“Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family,”





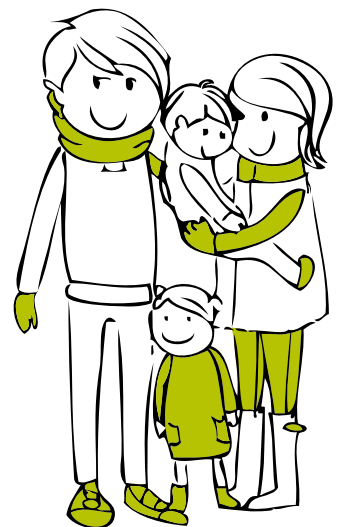
HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 Download the materials and plan in advance how to promote them.
- 2 At Masses distribute the 'God is family, so are we' stickers and ask people to put them on their car bumpers.
- 3 Look at the other materials on the website and decide how best to promote them.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- St Patrick's Day is a hugely popular celebration that has at its roots the deeper religious truth explored in *The Joy of Love*. This is an opportunity, in the midst of the festivities of the day, to promote the truth that the family is a living icon of the Trinity.

“God is family, so are we”





Easter

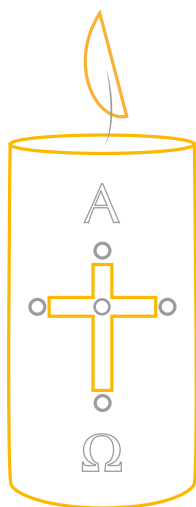
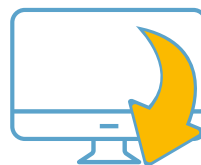
Blessing of Homes with Easter Water

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

At the Easter Vigil each year holy water is blessed. It is a tradition in Ireland that families bring this Easter water home with them to bless themselves, their homes, vehicles and also the graves of loved ones. Families are encouraged to pray together and bless their homes with the Easter water when they return from Mass on Holy Saturday night or Easter Sunday, or at some other time during the Easter season.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- Small plastic holy water bottles are very cheap to buy in bulk. They can be filled with water ahead of time and then placed at the baptismal font (or wherever the water is blessed) during the Easter Vigil.
- A downloadable information sheet and home blessing will be available on our website.



WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- This initiative seeks to recover a traditional religious practice that meant a lot to Irish families. The faithful have always been encouraged to take holy water home and to use it as part of their daily lives. They have also been encouraged to regularly seek God's blessing on themselves, their families and on their homes, vehicles, religious objects and other items. In Ireland the great affection that people have for deceased loved ones has been shown by the tradition of blessing graves.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 At the Masses on Palm Sunday announce that the initiative will be taking place the following weekend. Encourage people to bring containers to take the Easter water home with them. Also consider the option of having holy water bottles available for this purpose. These would be filled beforehand and blessed along with the other holy water during the Easter Vigil.
- 2 At the Easter Vigil ensure sufficient water is blessed for all those who wish to take some home.
- 3 Download and make copies of the information sheet to be distributed with the holy water. This explains the tradition of Easter water, and includes prayers and instructions for the family to use when blessing their home.

‘Another way of [families] growing closer is by blessing homes’





May

May Altar Initiative

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

Families and schools are invited to honour Our Lady in a special way during May, by putting up a small May altar in the home or classroom and gathering to pray together there. The centre of the May altar is an image or statue of the Blessed Virgin, placed in the chosen spot – a small table, or dresser, or window ledge. Flowers of the season are picked and placed around the image. A set of Rosary beads, a small crucifix and a prayer book with prayers to Our Lady can also be included at the altar.

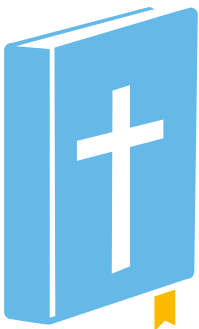
WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- An information sheet promoting the initiative and describing how to build a May altar is available on our website.



WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

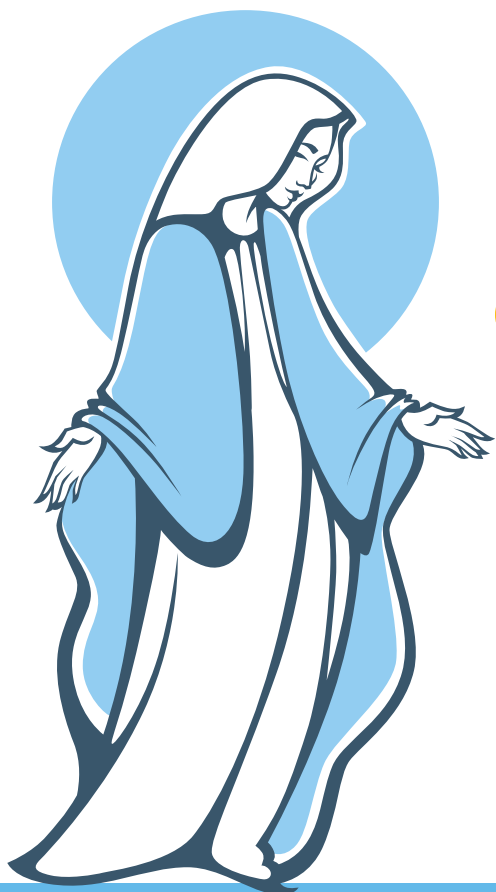
- In *The Joy of Love* Pope Francis encourages us to go to Our Lady and to look to her and the Family of Nazareth as a guide and encouragement in our own family lives. May is a special time in the Church calendar when Catholics honour Mary, so this is a good time to create a small altar at home or in the classroom, as a sign of our love for the Mother of Jesus and to encourage families to pray together as part of the routine of family life.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 Download the information and promotional sheets from our website.
- 2 Plan how to promote the initiative in the parish, especially in the weeks coming up to May.
- 3 Invite people to take photographs of their May altars and create a space in the church to display them.
- 4 Invite people to share photos of their May altar on social media to create a discussion point.



“The treasury of Mary’s heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us to understand the challenges our families face, and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families”





Pentecost

The Parish Family-Friendly Review



WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

A parish audit inspired by *The Joy of Love*, looking at how the parish is engaging with the diversity of family life in its midst. It invites the parish to reflect on the present reality and come up with ideas on how to be more welcoming, supportive and inclusive of families in different situations.



WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- A step-by-step guide, downloadable from the WMOF website.
- Downloadable posters to use for promotional purposes within the parish.
- A free certificate to be sent out to parishes that complete the review.

WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- In *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis invites us to examine the pastoral work for families and the structures in place for them.
- The Parish Family-Friendly Review is a very concrete way of preparing for the World Meeting of Families. It engages the community in an initiative that will challenge and strengthen the parish structures to take *The Joy of Love* seriously, while renewing parish family life in the longer term.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 Download the step-by-step guide from our website.
- 2 Establish a working group to take on the review and agree with the working group on key elements, such as the time frame, how families can participate in the review, when feedback will be offered to the parish, etc.
- 3 Ideally on the Feast of Pentecost, when we celebrate the Church as the family of families, announce that a review of how family-friendly the parish is will be initiated in the coming weeks.
- 4 The parish is invited through the guide to look at a series of questions. The working group then reflects on how the parish is dealing with the variety of family situations as outlined in *The Joy of Love*.
- 5 The group identifies what the challenges are for the parish and identifies possible ways of responding to those challenges.
- 6 The group puts together a plan of action.
- 7 The challenge is completed when the discerning process is finished, the plan of action is drafted and the parish begins its first initiative. A parish plan could be further developed in time but this is not needed to complete the challenge.
- 8 The parish sends the WMOF2018 office its feedback and is issued with a certificate of completion.



