



World Meeting of Families 2018 Celebrating the Fifth Anniversary

This week marks five years since Ireland hosted the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, from 21 – 26 August 2018 (WMOF2018). This was a very significant celebration of family life in Ireland, attended by thousands including Pope Francis who has had the family at the heart of his pontificate over the past ten years.

Pope Francis sees families as “God’s dream for humanity”.

Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin will celebrate Mass in the Pro-Cathedral this Sunday 27 August at 11.00am. Those who are free to attend are most welcome.

Suggested Prayers of the Faithful could be read by some who were involved (eg volunteered) at the WMOF2018, or who travelled to some of the events.

WMOF2018 Prayer might be offered as a Post-Communion reflection. Copy of Prayer is attached.

Prayer of the Faithful

(Marking the 5th anniversary of the World Meeting of Families in Dublin)

PRESIDER:

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 as we bring our prayers and intentions before you.

1. Let us pray for Pope Francis. We thank God for the joyful and hopeful message he offers to all families. May God our Father grant him strength and courage to proclaim the Gospel of the Family, and to lead the Church in living the joy of love. **Lord, hear us.**
2. Let us pray in thanksgiving for all who gave generously of their time and talents to prepare for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in 2018. May their generosity bear fruit in the life of the Church in Ireland, so that we might all be *brothers and sisters of each other in Jesus Christ, one family in the Spirit of his love.* **Lord, hear us.**
3. Let us pray for all families in our communities, especially for those families that are experiencing challenges and difficulties ... families in poverty, families fleeing war and persecution, families where there is violence, families experiencing illness or broken by addiction. May the bonds of love and affection that bind our families together be strengthened, and may all members of our families be granted hope, courage, and strength. **Lord, hear us.**
4. Let us pray for parents in their ministry of handing on the gift of faith to children. As they seek to create a domestic church, may they be a visible image of the love of God the Father, and a living proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May the seeds of faith that they sow in the hearts of their children bear fruit in lives of faith, hope, and love. **Lord, hear us.**
5. Let us pray for those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. May this time of preparation draw them closer to the God who will unite them as one. And may the Lord who journeys with them across the ocean of life protect their oneness, and bless them in their vocation of unity, fidelity, and love. **Lord, hear us.**
6. Recalling the penitential act of Pope Francis in Dublin seeking forgiveness for the crimes of ministers of the Church, let us pray for those who have been hurt and wounded in the Church. May the synodal Church that Pope Francis calls us to be, help us to humbly accompany our brothers and sisters in justice and truth. **Lord, hear us.**

PRESIDER:

God our Father, we thank you for hearing our prayer. Protect all families with your loving care. Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share, as we make this prayer through your Son, who is Christ, our Lord.

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.*



THE GOSPEL
OF THE FAMILY
Joy for the World



Official 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 our 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.
We ask this, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mary, mother and guide, **pray for us.**
St Joseph, father and protector, **pray for us.**
Saints Joachim and Anne, **pray for us.**
Saints Louis and Zéile Martin, **pray for us.**