



The 10th World Meeting of Families is taking place this week from 22 - 26 June in Rome on the theme, *'Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness.'* The delegation from Ireland includes family members led by the President of the Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, and the chair of the Council for Marriage & Family, Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin.

Ireland hosted the 9th World Meeting of Families in August 2018 which was attended by Pope Francis, and tens of thousands of people from home and abroad.

This year's World Meeting of Families has been adapted to suit the post-pandemic world and therefore will be smaller in terms of the numbers with just 2,000 delegates gathered in Rome. But, it is still possible for families across Ireland to be part of the event by joining in online as we became accustomed to doing during the pandemic. All of the gatherings that are part of this year's World Meeting will be live-streamed.

The Irish delegation have also taken the prayers and intentions of Irish families with them to Rome and asked that our delegation in Rome be remembered in prayer in our parishes at home, especially this coming weekend.

See <https://www.romefamily2022.com/en/> and the Vatican Media channels to access the live-stream of the events, which are as follows:

Festival of Families Wednesday 22 June;

Pastoral Congress Thursday, Friday and Saturday 23, 24 and 25 June;

Closing Mass the evening of Saturday 25 June;

Angelus and **'Mandate to Families'** from Pope Francis Sunday 26 June.

Official Prayer

Families and parishes are being encouraged to say the prayer which is inspired by the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the meeting: “*Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness*”. The prayer is intended to be a pastoral tool: it can be prayed in parishes, in communities, at home.

Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness

Heavenly Father,

We come before You to praise You
and to thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for all families
consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May they rediscover each day
the grace they have received,
and as small domestic Churches,
may they know how to witness to Your presence
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering
caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know.

Sustain them and make them aware
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for children and young people:
may they encounter You and respond joyfully
to the vocation You have in mind for them;

We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware
that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them;
and for the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to become missionary disciples,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with our priests, religious,
and all vocations in the Church.

Bless the World Meeting of Families.

Amen.