



## Visit of Icon of the Holy Family in the Diocese of Kerry Prayer Service with Primary Classes (Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class)

This may take place in the Church or in the classroom



### PRAYER SPACE

**A large candle** to represent *GOD'S FAMILY*

**Four smaller candles** to represent *YOUR FAMILY, SCHOOL FAMILY, PARISH FAMILY, and WORLD FAMILIES.*

Place the large candle in the centre and the others in a circle or semi-circle around it.

### The Globe

**A Bible:** open at the story of **Jesus heals Jairus' daughter** (Luke 8:40-56)

**3 Children** for Prayers

**A teacher** to light the candles

### HYMNS / SONGS

*These are a selection of suggested hymns for the Prayer Service. You are free to choose your own.*

### Bless ourselves in song

**Gathering Song:** First Class Teacher's book (page 85)

**Quiet and Still:** Junior Infants Teacher's book (page 49) First Class (page 47)

**They Care for Me:** Junior Infants Teacher's book (page 48)

**When Jesus was a Boy:** Junior Infant Teacher's book (page 120)

**Jesus Loves Children:** Junior Infant Teacher's book (page 148)

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**Leader** *We gather today to pray for our families and for all families around the world. God loves and cherishes all families. All families are part of God's family.*

**Teacher** We begin by lighting our candle which reminds us that God is with us.

### Hymn

- All Sing** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
- Leader** Our names are special to us. It is our families who gave us our names. All our families are different, but in all our families there are people who love us and who care for us. They show us how to love one another.
- Loving God, when we were baptised, we became part of your family.  
Thank you for giving your love to us in Baptism.  
Thank you for our families who love and care for us.  
Help us to share your love at home and in school. Amen.
- Hymn** Quiet and Still
- Leader** We will listen to a story about Jesus. This story comes from the Gospel. So let us listen to the story now.
- Reader** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. (Luke 2:41-52)*  
Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this, they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled a whole day and then they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the temple, sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his answers. His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you done this to us? Joseph and I have been terribly worried trying to find you.' He answered them, 'Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand his answer.  
The Gospel of the Lord.
- Leader** In this Gospel story, we learn about how Jesus lived with his family. We learn how he was respectful to his parents and how he showed love to them. We also learn how Mary and Joseph were worried about him and how they loved him very much.

**Pupil 1:** When we help at home...  
**All:** We live and love like Jesus

**Pupil 2:** When we listen to a Gospel story...  
**All:** We live and love like Jesus

**Pupil 3:** When we do what our parents ask of us...  
**All:** We live and love like Jesus

**Pupil 4:** When we pray at home...  
**All:** We live and love like Jesus

**Pupil 5:** When share with others...  
**All:** We live and love like Jesus

**Prayer for Families**

**Person 1:** We thank God for all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers and all who love and care for us. God bless us.  
**All:** God bless us.

**Person 2:** Joseph helped Mary to take care of Jesus. Thank you, God, for all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and all who love and care for us. God bless us.  
**All:** God bless us.

**Person 3:** We pray for ourselves that we may be obedient at home, in school and in the playground. God bless us all.  
**All:** God bless us.  
God our Father, you love me. You're with me night and day.  
I want to love you always in all I do and say.  
I'll try to please you father. Bless me through the day. Amen

**Closing Hymn**

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## **Prayer Service with Primary Classes (Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth)**

This may take place in the church or in the classroom

### **PRAYER SPACE**

**A large candle** to represent *GOD'S FAMILY*

**Four smaller candles** to represent *YOUR FAMILY, SCHOOL FAMILY, PARISH FAMILY, and WORLD FAMILIES.*

Place the large candle in the centre and the others in a circle or semi-circle around it.

### **The Globe**

**A Bible:** open at the story of **Jesus heals Jairus' daughter** (Luke 8:40-56)

**3 Children** for Prayers

**A teacher / child** to light the candles

### **HYMNS**

*These are a selection of suggested hymns for the Prayer Service. You are free to choose your own.*

### **Opening Hymn**

Gathering Song	<i>Grow in Love - Second Class Teacher's book page 88</i>
This is the Day	<i>Grow in Love - Second Class Teacher's book page 212</i>
Sign of the Cross Chant	<i>Alive- O 8</i>
Gather Round	<i>Alive-O 8</i>

**Alleluia:** sung before the Gospel

### **Hymn:**

Love	<i>Grow in Love - Third Class Teacher's book page 121</i>
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### **Final Hymn**

The Spirit of God is upon us	<i>Grow in Love – Second Class Teacher's book page 234</i>
Close to You	<i>Alive-O 8</i>
Cloud's Veil	<i>Alive-O 8</i>
Christ be our Light	<i>Alive-O 8</i>

### **Prayer for Families**

*Select from the list prayers that suit your setting...feel free to add your own prayers*

**INTRODUCTION** *before the Prayer Service to settle the children in.*

**Leader** You are all welcome to this special gathering today. We are gathered here to pray for and give thanks to God for our families. Pope Francis has chosen this year as a special year to celebrate FAMILIES. Families from all around world will gather in Dublin, in Croagh Park, in August this year to celebrate FAMILIES. They will meet, pray and celebrate with other families.

**Opening Hymn**

**Leader** Today we gather here in the church/school so that each of you can pray for your own family. All families are part of God's family. God loves and cherishes all families.

**Lighting of Candles** *Have a teacher / child light the candles*

**Leader** We light this large candle to represent God's family... *pause while lighting*  
The next candle we light represents your own family... *pause while lighting*  
The third candle represents our school family... *pause while lighting*  
The fourth candle is for our parish family - our community... *pause while lighting*  
The final candle is for all families around the world ... *pause while lighting*

**Leader** Sign of the Cross Chant (*Alive- O 8*)  
*or*  
We gather in the name of the Trinity as we bless ourselves ...

**All** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader** God our Father, we gather here as one family.  
Today we think especially of the Holy Family— Jesus, Mary and Joseph.  
We thank you God for our families.

**Leader** We ask you to bless our individual families who love and care for us.  
We remember families experiencing difficulties or sadness at this time.  
We pray that this year you will send your blessing on all families around the world.  
This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Reader 1** Let us focus on the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They knew worry and stress when they had to flee with Jesus their new born baby into Egypt. Both Mary and Joseph were very worried when Jesus got lost in the temple in Jerusalem. They spent three days searching for him. “His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” Then he went home to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.”

### **Sing Alleluia!**

**Leader** Loving God, open our minds, that we may hear your Word.  
Open our lips. that we may speak of your love.  
Open our hearts that we may live as Jesus asks.

**Leader** We now listen to a gospel story where Jesus shows care and compassion for a family whose little girl is sick.

**Reader 2** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.

**Reader 2** A man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl about twelve, was dying.  
While Jesus was still speaking to the people, someone came from the house of Jairus and said: “Your daughter is dead.” Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.  
When they arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother.

**Reader 2** Meanwhile, all the people were crying and mourning for her. “Stop crying” Jesus said. “She is not dead but asleep. They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, “Little girl get up.” Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.”  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader** Jesus saw the deep faith and total trust of Jairus. Jesus sees our faith too when we pray to him. Let us now take a quiet moment...  
What do you want Jesus to do for your family? Ask him now with your inside voice... *(pause for a minute)*

### **Prayer for Families**

**Person 1** Today, let us remember Mary, the mother of Jesus. We thank God that Mary is our heavenly mother. We pray for all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, step mothers and foster parents.  
Silently pray for yours... *(pause)*  
Lord hear us.

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Person 2** Joseph helped Mary to take care of Jesus. We pray for all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, step fathers, and foster parents. Silently pray for yours... *(pause)*  
Lord hear us.

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Person 3** Mary did as God asked her to. We pray that we will be able to love our families and others as Jesus has asks us to... *(pause)*  
Lord, hear us.

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Person 4** We pray for ourselves that we may be obedient at home, in school and in the playground ... *(pause)*

Lord, hear us.

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Person 5** We pray for Pope Francis, that God will continue to bless him and may his visit to Ireland inspire all families. *(pause)*

Lord, hear us.

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Person 6** We pray for families who are experiencing war and fleeing from their homeland. *(pause)*

Lord, hear us.

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Person 7** We pray for ourselves that we may show God's love and care at home at all times. *(pause)*

Lord, hear us.

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Sing** Love            Grow in Love Third Class Teachers Book page 121  
                          In school setting use interactive whiteboard for words  
Or Hymn of your choice

**Leader** Lord Jesus,  
Jairus believed that you were with him when he was sad and afraid.  
He believed that you could help him, and his family, in a way that no one else could.  
Help us to believe that you are with us too.  
Like Jairus help us to turn to you when we need help.  
You tell us, 'Do not be afraid. Only believe.'  
Jesus increase our faith in you.  
Thank you, Jesus, for promising to be with us always. Amen.

**Closing Hymn**