

Visit of the Icon of the Holy Family in the Diocese of Kerry



Be Christ's joy in family

RESOURCE
BOOKLET

APRIL
2018



**Visit of the Icon of the Holy Family in the Diocese of Kerry
April 2018**

St. Mary's Church, Listowel

Afternoon of Monday April 9th – Morning of Wednesday April 11th

Holy Cross Church, Kenmare

Afternoon of Wednesday April 11th – Morning of Friday April 13th

St. Mary's Cathedral, Killarney

Afternoon of Friday April 13th – Morning of Tuesday April 17th

St. John's Church, Tralee

Afternoon of Tuesday April 17th – Morning of Friday April 20th

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Introduction

Dear Father and Parish Liturgy Groups,

We welcome the Icon of the Holy Family to our diocese. Over the past few years, many parishes have mentioned that they would like to deepen their prayer and ministry to family life. Since last August the Icon of the Holy Family has been brought around the dioceses to encourage reflection and prayer as part of the journey of preparation towards the World Meeting of Families in Dublin this August.

The Icon of the Holy Family was written by iconographer Mihai Cucu, and assisted by the Redemptoristine Sisters in Dublin. This icon takes the form of a triptych which looks, from the outside, somewhat like a house with front doors. The archangels Michael and Gabriel are on these front doors, messengers of Good News and God's protection. Inside, the central image is that of the Holy Family gathered around the kitchen table. The Wedding Feast at Cana is evoked on the right panel, and the Healing of Jairus' Daughter on the left panel.

A petition box accompanies the Icon and intentions will be brought to the Closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families [WMOF] at which Pope Francis will preside. The intentions are being prayed for by all the religious communities in Ireland.

*May this fortnight of prayer with the Icon of the Holy Family,
be an experience of God's great love for us.
May this experience of God's love for us give birth
to a revolution of tenderness in all families.*

How to use this booklet

All parishes are invited to participate in the journey of the Icon in the diocese. While the Icon of the Holy Family will be on display in four venues in our diocese, each parish is invited to use this resource booklet to nourish prayer for families and invite us to reflect on our lives as families and communities of families.

Contained in this resource booklet are:

- Resources for daily Mass
- Prayer services for primary school children
- Prayer services for post-primary students
- Reflections for personal prayer for use at home, in hospitals and nursing homes or in parish groups.

Involve different members of the community

- At daily Mass - invite members of the congregation to take on the roles of Lighting of Candle in the Sacred Space, Prayer of the Faithful, Leading the Family Prayer after Communion.
- At weekend Masses, ask a member of the Parish Pastoral Council to give the word of introduction in the Gathering Rite.
- Encourage the local school to lead a Prayer Service: invite parents, grandparents, Board of Management and the local community. A variety of age appropriate resources are available (pages 33-40) and online via the diocesan website.
- Make the Personal Prayer resources available to the faith community (pages 43/44 and 45/46). These offer different ways of praying with the Icon and are also accessible online via the diocesan website.

Sacred Space

God speaks through signs and symbols as well as words

- Create a focal point, using the large version of the Icon sent to parishes December 2017.
- Place a large candle near the Icon to be lit at the start of Mass during this fortnight.

For Daily Mass on Monday April 9th

Gathering Rite:

Reader For the next 12 days we welcome the Icon of the Holy Family to our diocese. The Icon was specially commissioned for the upcoming World Meeting of Families which takes place in Dublin this August. This beautiful Icon gives us an opportunity to ponder what family means to us as Christians, and to pray with and for all families. So, as we light a candle by the Icon in our Sacred Space, we gather at the beginning of this Mass, mindful of all our family members, and of all families around the world.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Homily Notes: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel, whom we see depicted on the outside of the Icon of the Holy Family, visits Mary with a message of incredible news. Upon opening the door of the Icon, it is as if we are welcoming and making a space for the Good News in our homes, and in our hearts. Just as Mary did. In her poem, *Annunciation*, Denise Levertov talks about God waiting: “the moment no one speaks of, when she could still refuse.” Yet consent and courage were Mary’s response.

We too are called each day to embody the Good News in our families, in our community. How will you choose to welcome God into the familiar relationships and surrounds of your life today?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest We bring our prayers to God, our loving creator.

Reader For Pope Francis who reminds us that the good news of family is a joy for all the world. Lord hear us.

Reader For governments all round the world that they will act justly in their policies promoting and protecting family life. Lord hear us.

Reader For all families, that they may experience compassion and forgiveness in the messiness of everyday moments. Lord hear us.

Reader For all children preparing for their First Communion, that they may grow in love at home, in school and in our parish. Lord hear us.

Reader For the deceased members of our families and communities.
Lord hear us.

Priest Gracious God, you know the prayers in our hearts.
Continue to deepen our faith
and help us to discover you in our daily encounters.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All **Amen.**

After Communion:

Priest **WMOF Family Prayer**

If you have time after Mass, I invite you to ponder the Icon of the Holy Family. Remember the words we heard in today's gospel "For with God, nothing will be impossible". Let the words echo in your heart and talk with God in your own words about the joys and the challenges of your own family life.

Tuesday April 10th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader In his Apostolic Letter on the Family, Pope Francis says that love is more than a feeling. He understands that love is shown more by actions than words. As we light a candle by the Icon of the Holy Family in our Sacred Space, may we grow in awareness that our presence here as God's family is an act of love, an act of faith.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.
You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy.
You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Homily Notes: John 3:7-15

Even for the scholars this is an ambiguous text! We don't even know who Nicodemus was. His purpose in this gospel however is to catch the conscience of the listener or the reader. He represents the type of religious person who is totally sincere, and yet at the same time complacent about their knowledge of God and of God's will. So, Jesus engages Nicodemus in conversation. If Nicodemus really wants to know, Jesus will explain further. In this sense, it is an echo of the Old Testament passage where God speaks intimately to each of us "If you seek me, you will find me. If you seek me with all of your heart, I will let you find me." (Jer 29:13) God comes to us disguised as our life. Who in your family has deepened your understanding of Jesus through their actions?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest We bring our prayers to the Risen Christ who knows the complexity of life.

Reader For Pope Francis and all leaders of faith communities. Lord hear us.

Reader For those starting out in a new job, new country or resuming work after an illness. Lord hear us.

Reader For couples preparing for marriage and those renewing their vows after a difficult time. Lord hear us.

Reader For all who receive news of pregnancy. Lord hear us.

Reader For a greater awareness of our need to care for the Earth, our Common Home. Lord hear us.

Reader For our dead. Lord hear us.

Priest Loving Christ, you listen with an attentive heart to our prayers.
Give courage to our words and actions,
that we may always choose life in our decisions.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

After Communion:

Priest **WMOF Family Prayer**

After Mass, I invite you to spend some time with the Icon of the Holy Family. Bring your questions to Jesus who makes space for you at the table, Jesus who heals, Jesus who transforms your inner life.

Wednesday April 11th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader Frequently Pope Francis calls for a “revolution of tenderness”, what he describes as “the movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands”. As we light a candle by the Icon of the Holy Family in our Sacred Space, we gather at the beginning of this Mass, grateful for all those people live compassionately.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you healed the sick: Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you give yourself to heal us and bring us strength: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Homily Notes: John 3:16-21

The opening phrase of today’s gospel is a powerful affirmation of God’s love for us. “Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes... may have eternal life”.

The Good News is all about love. Jesus, the Lord of Light, has come into our world, bringing salvation, not condemnation. May we in response, echo this love in how we relate in family and in the wider community. A smile, a word of encouragement, a letting go of resentment. Little, life-giving ways that will bring this gospel to life in our parish today.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest Infused with confidence from today's gospel that you are the God of Love, wanting us to have a fullness of life, we bring our prayers to you.

Reader For Pope Francis and all leaders in the Church.
Lord hear us.

Reader For governments all round the world, that they will act justly in their policies.
Lord hear us.

Reader For all people, that they may become living icons of God's love for one another. Lord hear us.

Reader For people experiencing darkness in their lives, that they may know God's love through our compassionate support.
Lord hear us.

Reader For the dead, that they may know the fullness of new life in eternity.
Lord hear us.

Priest Lord you call us constantly
to let the light of your love shine in and through us.
Make your home ever deeper in our hearts,
and make our homes places of welcoming love.
This we ask through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

After Communion:

Priest **WMOF Family Prayer**

After Mass, I invite you to spend some time with the Icon of the Holy Family. Allow your eyes to drink in the Light of Christ. Let God's love resonate within you...here, and at home...in places of celebration as well as places of loss... Know that God's love holds you close always, wherever you are.

Thursday April 12th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader In his Apostolic Letter on the Family, Pope Francis emphasises that real “love inspires a sincere esteem for every human being”. If we truly value the dignity of each human being, love for this person “will lead me to reject injustice whereby some possess too much and others too little”. As we bring flame to the candle by the Icon of the Holy Family, may the light of Christ catch fire in our hearts and in our homes.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Homily Notes: John 3:31-36

There are many contrasts in today’s gospel – and we could be caught in black and white thinking, or an “us and them” thinking. However, Jesus bridges that gap. He is the connector of all aspects. He is the Way, both human and divine; he is Truth accepted and rejected; and he is Life. His unity with the Father is seen in the utter trust between them and the abundance of life that spills forth “God gives the Spirit without reserve. The Father loves the Son and has entrusted everything to him.” This love outpours to all of us, all the days of our lives. Do you believe this? How does this love influence your choices?

Prayer of the Faithful:

- Priest** God of abundant love,
we bring you the prayers of our hearts this Spring day.
- Reader** For Pope Francis and all leaders in our Church and in our world, that they may use their talents and gifts to create generous, welcoming and just communities. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For migrants and refugees, that they may know our sincere esteem through intentional actions of kindness. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For corporate owners, managers and employees, that respect and dignity be the hallmark of working relationships. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For all families struggling with the consequences of abuse.
Lord have mercy.
- Reader** For children preparing for Confirmation, that the gifts of the Spirit may develop steadily, strengthening our young people throughout their lives.
Lord hear us.
- Reader** For all who are dying this day. For their loved ones and carers.
Lord hear us.
- Reader** For our beloved dead. Lord hear us.
- Priest** Generous God, you who hold all peoples and situations in love,
soften our hearts to be more tender and merciful
in our everyday encounters.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- All** *Amen*

After Communion:

Priest WMOF Family Prayer

Take time to ponder the abundance of God's life-giving love as you look at the Icon of the Holy Family. There is a space waiting for you at their table.

Friday April 13th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader In St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he encourages the faith community to be truly loving, spelling it out for them. "Love is patient. Love is kind". If it is in print, it's because that community too experienced difficulties in relating. Yet in today's gospel we are given hope, an example to look at, learn from and live: that Love is at the service of others. As we bring light to the candle by the Icon of the Holy Family, let us be inspired to keep turning to God's loving gaze, no matter what.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Homily Notes: John 6:1-15

The offering of five loaves and two fish is presented to us as though it was Andrew's idea, but I like to think of it as coming from the little boy himself. Kids are very generous and will often offer us what they have if they see we have nothing. It's something they pick up innately from home. Despite the craziness of it all, the little child is not afraid to offer what he has. And Jesus can transform that into more than we could ask or imagine. In this story, picture a gathering of families, sitting down on lush grass with meadow-flowers, an abundant picnic up on the hillside, in sunshine. Jesus reveals a very caring God, who is concerned for our well-being. Eating well. Resting well. Being well nourished. There is something in the act of sharing food with others that somehow adds another dimension of nourishment... We are nurtured physically and also relationally, creating and building a caring community where we watch out for one another, where we give of ourselves.

Prayer of the Faithful:

- Priest** As God's family in faith, we entrust our prayers with the simplicity of the child offering all he had in the five loaves and two fish.
- Reader** For Pope Francis who reminds us that love is at the service of others.
Lord hear us.
- Reader** For all leaders – church, political and business, that they may be people who inspire hope, and work for good of all. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For all teachers, in schools and in our families, whose encouragement is draws forth giftedness in the other. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For all of our loved ones who have died, we ask for the gift of your peace. Lord hear us.
- Priest** Generous God, grant these our prayers
and help us to live daily with awareness of your abundant love for us.
Open our hearts to be at the service of life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- All** Amen.

After Communion:

Priest WMOF Family Prayer

If you have time after Mass, I invite you to linger with this gospel as you ponder the Icon of the Holy Family. Enjoy a leisurely heart to heart chat with Jesus about your own experience of family life.

Saturday April 14th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader When Pope Francis unpacks St. Paul's phrase "Love is not irritable or resentful", he points to those moments that sets us on edge where others are concerned. Whenever tempers are high, rather than throwing word bombs or becoming gossip terrorists, the Pope encourages us to take time out and talk with God. We can unburden our hurts in God's great love and discover healing ways forward. As we light the candle by the Icon of the Holy Family, may the flame of God's love ignite forgiveness.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Homily Notes: John 6:16-21

The gospel today is a human tale of short memories! After a long day with crowds of families at the abundant picnic – all from the five loaves and two fish, it is now pitch dark at night. The disciples are alone in a boat, exhausted from battling across the lake in a storm. Then when they were several miles out, Jesus walks over the choppy waters and they are scared by the sight of him, doubting what they see. Jesus' words of self-revelation reassure "It is I. Don't be afraid." They gladly welcome him, and suddenly they have arrived safely at their destination. Even when we celebrate strong moments of connection – with God, with our spouses, children, families, neighbours – something can happen and we're thrown in the depths of despair, sadness, anguish. This is all part of our human journey, our faith journey. When we are exhausted, in the dark through illness or grief ... the last thing we expect to see and hear is Jesus. Yet here he is... "It is I. Don't be afraid." The one who loves you, is with you. Always. Deep down remember this.

Prayer of the Faithful:

- Priest** Steadfast God, we entrust all the prayers of our hearts to you. Open our ears to hear your reassurance, that you are close by always.
- Reader** For all leaders in the Church and in political life, that they may actively promote peace at all levels.
Lord hear us.
- Reader** For peacekeepers serving in conflict zones on land and at sea.
Lord hear us.
- Reader** For gardaí, fire service crews, coastguards and all emergency service responders present in crisis situations.
Lord hear us.
- Reader** For families experiencing trauma.
Lord hear us.
- Reader** Hold close in your light those who have died. We remember especially...
Lord hear us.
- Priest** Ever-present God, you who join us in our reality, grant these our prayers. Help us to live with growing awareness of your generous care for us. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- All** **Amen.**

After Communion:

Priest WMOF Family Prayer

If you have time after Mass, I invite you to linger with this gospel as you ponder the Icon of the Holy Family. Enjoy a leisurely heart to heart chat with Jesus about your own family experiences and faith journey.

Sunday April 15th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader We gather this Second Sunday of Easter in the joy of new life, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our Cathedral we welcome the Icon of the Holy Family, as part of our diocesan preparation for the World Meeting of Families which is taking place in Dublin this August. The theme for this great event centres on the Gospel of the Family, a Joy for all the World. In gathering as a faith family, listening to God's Word, and sharing the Bread of Life, may the gift of this Eucharist awaken in you deep joy and hope.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you healed the sick: Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you give yourself to heal us and bring us strength: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Homily Notes: Luke 24: 35-48

The passage we just heard comes from the closing chapter of Luke's gospel. The disciples have gathered again as a group and are on the threshold of believing the resurrection of Jesus. They are trying to make sense of the various happenings that day. However, when Jesus joins them in the room, their response is one of fright and uncertainty. His immediate words extend a greeting of peace. Just as the disciples gathered back there and then, we as another group of Jesus' friends gather today. Jesus offers us here and now the same greeting of peace. For many of us, the daily context of our lives is family life...whatever that mosaic looks like! The peace that Jesus offers is a deep down inner peace that transforms our behaviours and ways of relating. Family life is messy at times. Yet we have hope. Pope Francis encourages us to cultivate regular use of the words "Please, Thank You and I'm Sorry" which can transform and renew family life.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest Generous God, we continue to give you thanks during this Easter season and bring you the prayers of our hearts.

Reader For our Church, that our gratitude will be actively expressed in our daily lives through our care for one another and all creation. Lord hear us.

Reader For parents who are helping their children prepare to receive the Sacraments of Communion or Confirmation, that this experience may be one of deepening joy. Lord hear us.

Reader For all young adults who are discerning their vocation in life – to marriage, priesthood, single life or religious life. Lord hear us.

Reader For all families – whether united, dispersed, broken, homeless - may the hope of the Risen Christ give new heart to all to reach out to one another in compassion. Lord hear us.

Reader For all of our loved ones who have died we ask for the gift of your peace. Lord hear us.

Priest Gentle God, grant these our prayers
and help us to live daily with awareness of your generous love for us.
Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All Amen.

After Communion:

Priest **WMOF Family Prayer**

To whom in my extended family could I say “Please”, “Thank You”, “Sorry”?

Monday April 16th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader Another quality of love described by St. Paul is that it rejoices with others, celebrating the other person's goodness, valuing their abilities and dignity. This becomes impossible when we get stuck in a mindset of "comparing and competing". As we bring flame to the candle by the Icon of the Holy Family, let us be thankful that God's gracious love welcomes us as we are every single moment.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Homily Notes: John 6:22-29

How often has it happened to you that you tasted something wonderful and you wanted more? Well that's what's happening here in today's gospel. The crowd who experienced the miraculous picnic the day before are now in the boats looking for Jesus. He draws on their hunger and challenges them to seek deeper meaning, to discover that which truly nourishes. We gather to be nourished by the Word of God and by the Bread of Life shared in this Eucharist. But not only is Jesus found here. Just as Jesus went ahead of the crowd in the gospel, he goes and prepares a place to encounter each one of us too...at home, in our workplace, over a cuppa with a friend... so that we too can ask, like the disciples "When did you come here?" May we recognise God's presence with us in the ordinary moments of each day.

Prayer of the Faithful:

- Priest** Loving God, you who meet us in the ordinary moments of our daily lives, we bring you these prayers from our hearts.
- Reader** For leaders in our Church and world who seek new ways to work for the common good. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For grandparents and older members of our community who transmit their wisdom and faith from generation to generation. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For missionaries at home and abroad who witness to the Good News by their lives. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For scientists and researchers whose questioning and discoveries broaden our understanding of life. Lord hear us.
- Reader** For loved ones who have died. Lord hear us.
- Priest** Gracious God, grant these prayers
and help us see your generous spirit reflected in our encounters this day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- All** **Amen.**

After Communion:

Priest WMOF Family Prayer

If you have time after Mass, I invite you to gaze at the three scenes depicted in this beautiful Icon of the Holy Family and ponder where Jesus encounters you...around the family table...in times of joy or illness. Talk with Jesus about this. Ask for what you need at the moment. Listen to the Lord's reply in your heart.

Tuesday April 17th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader Pope Francis describes that what helps him better understand the phrase “Love believes all things” is a sense of trust which encourages freedom in a relationship. This freedom is recognised in sincerity and transparency. In the gospel today, we’ll hear about people wanting signs. Jesus however invites us all to go deeper – drawing us into a personal relationship of trust. As we bring flame to the candle by the Icon of the Holy Family, we pray for a deeper knowing of, and trust in God’s love.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you healed the sick: Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you give yourself to heal us and bring us strength: Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Homily Notes: John 6:30-35

In the Gospel we hear the people wanting certainty - any sign from Jesus will do! Then as now, people look for external validations. What possessions will give me prestige and power? Who are the celebrities to follow? What is the current superfood? What’s the latest title in the book club? In referencing the old times when Moses, Manna and the Torah gave life, Jesus is telling them that no matter however good the past was, the present is even more so – in his self-gift as the Bread of Life.

It’s all about a personal relationship with Jesus, one that sends us out towards others. Jesus is in the real presence of Eucharist and also really present in our families, work-places and leisure-spaces. Over and over, Jesus keeps inviting us to trust him. How will you respond in the ordinary, daily moments of your life?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest Loving God, you who are with us now and always, we bring the prayers of our hearts.

Reader For all leaders in the Church and in our country, that decision-making may occur in a spirit of freedom and trust, for the common good of all people. Lord hear us.

Reader For Christian unity. Lord hear us.

Reader For an end to wars and conflicts. Lord hear us.

Reader For our personal intentions. Lord hear us.

Priest For all who have died.... Lord hear us.

Priest Gracious God, grant these prayers and help us to see your generous spirit reflected in our encounters this day. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All Amen.

After Communion:

Priest WMOF Family Prayer

If you have time after Mass, I invite you to reflect on the Icon of the Holy Family. Consider the experiences where Jesus nourishes you in the ordinary events of your daily life – in the ups and downs of everyday encounters. What do you notice? Wherever we are, Jesus is close by. Talk with Him about this. Listen to his response to you.

Wednesday April 18th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Priest There's a wonderful hymn that the First Holy Communion children sing called "Come as you are". Perhaps it has been sung in your home! It echoes the invitation that Jesus offers us in today's gospel to come as you are, to trust him. Nothing can change his love for us. Let us ponder this for a moment as we bring light to the candle by the Icon of the Holy Family.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Homily Notes: John 6:35-40

What a wonderful invitation from Jesus - Come, be nourished! Believe! Implicit is a fullness of life on many levels. Such words of hope. No matter how we are when we come to be present with the Lord – whether grateful, or feeling low, celebrating or grieving, bored even... - just come and be nourished. Jesus won't turn you away without fulfilling your heart's desire. So, what do you want really? Take a moment to think about this.

Jesus doesn't describe who he is, but rather what he does. He nourishes with bread that produces life. Jesus will satisfy the deepest needs of everyone that comes to him. We see this in the Icon of the Holy Family. Jesus responds to the needs of where each one is at – at a public wedding, and in the intimacy of one's home. Take heart. The grace that you ask for is the gift God is longing to give you – that you may have fullness of life in this moment.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest Abundant God, whose joy is our joy, we ask you to hear and answer these prayers of our hearts.

Reader For all leaders, that they promote initiatives for peace in our world.
Lord hear us.

Reader For prisoners, and people imprisoned through addiction or shame.
Lord hear us.

Reader For families coping with homelessness. Lord hear us.

Reader For our young people and all generations to come. Lord hear us.

Reader For our own intentions. Lord hear us.

Reader For all who have died. Lord hear us.

Priest Loving God, hear and answer these our prayers.
Open our hearts with your tender words,
that we too can be living icons of your love
in our families and local community.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

After Communion:

Priest **WMOF Family Prayer**

If you have time after Mass, pause for a while with the Icon of the Holy Family. Hear God's invitation "Come as you are, rest in my love". Talk with God about what you desire, for you, for the different members of your family, your neighbours, or for our world.

Thursday April 19th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader Love is generous. We see this through the parents, up at night with a young baby; through an elderly husband caring for his sick wife; through the intentional acts of kindness by our Confirmation students; through a community gathering around and supporting a family in mourning. Today's gospel reminds us that we love, because we have first been loved by God. As we bring light to the candle by the Icon of the Holy Family, we pause for a moment to become aware of God's great love for us.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.
You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy.
You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Homily Notes: John 6:44-51

In today's gospel Jesus tells us that any loving response on our part is because we are already first loved by God the creator. Love responds to love. Let Jesus' invitation to come to him, resonate deep in our hearts. There we will find fullness of life, no matter what is going on around us.

In the story of the Wedding feast at Cana which we see portrayed in the Icon of the Holy Family, Jesus' mother Mary elicited Jesus' giftedness. Our parents, family members, friends, and colleagues call forth the best in us, especially in testing circumstances. May each one come to a profound knowing of their unique giftedness. May we generously share our gifts and abilities in family, parish and the wider community.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest Lavish God, you gave us Jesus your Son. Like Him, we bring to you the prayers of our hearts.

Reader For all leaders, that they encourage generous service by example.
Lord hear us.

Reader For all who serve as ministers and volunteers in our faith community.
Lord hear us.

Reader For a deeper appreciation of all we have received, and a generous response to others in need at this time. Lord hear us.

Reader For parents facing tough decisions. Lord hear us.

Reader For students preparing for College and State exams. Lord hear us.

Reader For all who have died. Lord hear us.

Priest Loving God, hear and answer these our prayers.
Open our hearts with your tender words,
that we too can be living icons of your love
in our families and local community.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All Amen.

After Communion:

Priest WMOF Family Prayer

If you have time after Mass, pause for a while with the Icon of the Holy Family. Talk with God in your own words about what is happening in your family or neighbourhood. Where is God inviting you to be a living icon of generous love in the service of others?

Friday April 20th 2018

Gathering Rite:

Reader Pope Francis acknowledges that there is no family that does not know experiences of selfishness, tension and conflict. These can give rise to many forms of division in family life. We can become distant, or fearful in our relationships, avoiding affection. Yet praying with all these emotions, we can grow into acceptance and learn to live with our limitations and weaknesses. Being able to forgive others implies forgiving ourselves at times. We can be certain of God's love for us, a love that constantly encourages us into understanding and support.

(Candle in front of Icon is now lit)

Priest Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Homily Notes: John 6:52-59

From earliest days Christians have understood this passage as referring to the Eucharist. In baptism, we are given the life that the Father shares with the Son. The Eucharist is food nourishing that life. Jesus is inviting us to live in the love of the Trinity. Jesus uses this same verb *menei* – to live / dwell / remain – later on in Chapter 15 “Remain in my love”. Not only is there physical sustenance, but the nourishment that comes from Jesus' real, loving presence in our hearts. Instead of a Jesus who would make everything ok in the world, we are offered a Jesus who is intimately present in our humanity, who needs us to work alongside him - in forgiving others, in giving food to the hungry, to struggle for justice and peace in areas of oppression, to be present to the lonely, the bereaved, the one in pain... In welcoming Jesus at communion today, let us be renewed to reach out to others compassionately.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Priest Companion God, you who are present to us in all the ups and downs of life, hear the prayers of our hearts.

Reader For Pope Francis who encourages to be expressions of God's tender mercy in our families and in our world. Lord hear us.

Reader For families where painful division has led to separation. Lord hear us.

Reader For all missing children, and families waiting their return. Lord hear us.

Reader For all peacemakers – on the playgrounds, in homes and in workplaces. Lord hear us.

Reader For people involved in the World Meeting of Families this summer - the organisers and participants, that it may be an opportunity for all of us to deepen our faith and support family life. Lord hear us.

Reader For all our personal intentions. Lord hear us.

Reader For all the dead. Lord hear us.

Priest Steadfast God, grant these our prayers
and help us to live daily with awareness of your generous love for us.
Through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All Amen.

After Communion:

Priest **WMOF Family Prayer**

Let your contemplation of the Icon of the Holy Family lead you to be living expressions of Jesus' abundant love in your homes. Today how will you respond to situations of need in our community?

Welcoming the Icon of the Holy Family to the parish at daily Mass¹

Preparations: *A large candle in front of the Icon ready to be lit.*

Priest and ministers process to the altar

After the opening greeting

Priest: Today we welcome the Icon of the Holy Family to our parish. The visit of this Icon to our diocese is part of our preparations for the World Meeting of Families which will be taking place this August in Dublin.

[Reader] We may not be familiar with icons. The word ‘icon’ comes to us from the Greek word for ‘image’. However, an icon has a very different intention to the countless images with which we are bombarded day in day out. An icon invites us to prayer. The icon reflects something of who our Lord is. In this icon, we see Jesus seated with his parents around a table, inviting us to join him; we find Jesus tending to Jairus’ daughter at a time of sickness, and present with the people gathered in celebration at the wedding at Cana. The visit of this Icon to our community is an invitation to pray for and with families here at home, in our country and throughout the world.

Incensing of the Icon

Candle in front of the Icon is lit

Intercessions

Reader 1 We see the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, seated at table, sharing a meal.

Reader 2 We thank you, Lord, for the family moments we have shared throughout our lives.

¹ St. Mary’s Church, Listowel; Holy Cross Church, Kenmare; St. Mary’s Cathedral, Killarney; St. John’s Church, Tralee

- Reader 1** We see how Mary's hand is held up to her face, communicating how Mary our Mother knows the heartache, the worries and burdens all parents experience with their children.
- Reader 2** We remember all families, especially those struggling with addiction or depression or financial worries.
- Reader 1** We realise in the gesture of Joseph's hands, that he is letting Jesus go. St Joseph echoes for us the responsibility and dilemma of every parent, wanting to nurture and protect their child whilst at the same time letting them be free to become all they can be in God's eyes.
- Reader 2** We call to mind all parents and guardians, all those who work with young people and with children.
- Reader 1** The Holy Family have a place at their table for us, inviting us to join them. They are no strangers to trials. They themselves have been refugees, fleeing the violence of Herod.
- Reader 2** We are reminded of all the families throughout the world, fleeing war and poverty.
- Reader 1** The presence of the unleavened bread and cup of wine on their table call to mind the Eucharist for us.
- Reader 2** Lord, you give us your own life in the Eucharist. We come to each celebration of Mass that we become 'icons' of your Son, becoming more and more like you each day.
- Priest** May this visit of the Icon of the Holy Family to our parish be a blessed time for us.
 Lord, you invite us through this icon to reflect on how we live your love in our families in the everyday moments, at time of sickness and in time of joy.
 We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
- All** Amen

Mass continues with the Penitential Rite.

Other resources for the Mass of the Day are available in this Resource Booklet.

At Mass on the day the Icon of the Holy Family is leaving the parish2**

Mass is celebrated as usual, drawing on the resources for the Mass of the Day in this Resource Booklet.

Concluding Rite

Incensing of the Icon

Priest Lord, we thank you for the gift of this Icon of the Holy Family in our parish over the last few days.
May its visit recall for us
that you, Lord, are present in all our family moments,
in times of sickness and in times of joy, and in our daily lives.

Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And with your spirit.

Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All Thanks be to God.

Priest and ministers process from the sanctuary

^{2 2} St. Mary's Church, Listowel; Holy Cross Church, Kenmare; St. Mary's Cathedral, Killarney; St. John's Church, Tralee

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)

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

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

Prayer Service with Post Primary Students

(This can take place in the church or school. Place a replica of the WMOF icon in the centre of the classroom/prayer room. For the opening procession, the hymn is sung and the students process with candles, a candle for each student taking part. The candles can be placed around the icon.)

Opening Hymn: Lord of all Hopefulness (Traditional)

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Opening Prayer

Leader of Prayer Dear God, we gather around the icon of the Holy Family to give thanks for all our families. Families come in all shapes and sizes. Help us to see the beauty of our families and appreciate how they make us who we are. Most of all, we thank you God, for welcoming us into your family and for letting us be called your children.

Reflection on the Icon

(For this part of the celebration include three candles to be placed in front of the three parts of the icon. Light each candle as readers 2, 4 and 6 read their parts.)

Reflection 1 - The Holy Family

Reader 1 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this?"

Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." Jesus said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

(Light Candle One – optional instrumental music)

Reader 2: Help us to show love and caring for our own parents, help us to treasure in our hearts the time we spend with them. Help us always to be kind.

All: **God, bless all families, may they know the joy and love of Jesus' family.**
(Short Pause)

Reflection 2 - Raising Jairus' Daughter

Reader 3: When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about. At this they were overcome with amazement.

(Light Candle Two – optional instrumental music)

Reader 4: Jesus has profound compassion for this family with a sick child. We ask Jesus to bless families who experience the different hardships of life. May God help them and give them the strength to work through difficult times. Bless all families experiencing sickness and bereavement.

All: **May God help all families experiencing difficulty and hopelessness.**
(Short Pause)

Reflection 3 – The Wedding at Cana

Reader 5: There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine. And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine.

(Light candle three – optional instrumental music)

Reader 6: Lord, help us call to mind all the happy family times, family gatherings, baptisms, first communion celebrations, confirmations, weddings, birthdays. May God bless these times of joy and love.

All: May joy and love endure in our families.

(Short Pause)

Post Reflection Hymn: *Ubi Caritas* by Bob Hurd (from his album entitled *Ubi Caritas*)

Leader of Prayer: Together we pray:

Our Father.....

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let us pray, that the Holy Family will bless us always.
May we be supported in our need,
bless us as we celebrate,
guide us in our everyday school activities.
May the Holy Family strengthen all families throughout the world.
May it bring peace and joy.
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Recessional Hymn/Song:The Joy for all the World

Ephrem Feeley

Love bears all things, endures all things
Love longs for all things good, love never ends
Love is patient, and love is kind.
Love is not resentful; it is not rude.
Love is not arrogant, nor boastful, nor jealous,
but love rejoices, rejoices in the truth

Refrain

**The joy, of love, a joy for all God's family,
The joy of love transcending time and space.
Our Love for each other mirrors God the Father's love.
The joy of love: a joy for all the earth.**

Here in Gods family all find their home.
All can find salvation troubled souls find peace.
Here is found tenderness, compassion and justice
Here God reaches down to us and touches us with grace.

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Personal Prayer with the Icon of the Holy Family



Contemplating the Icon of the Holy Family

- Where does your eye first land when you look at the icon? And then where does it travel to, taking in the whole icon?
- How many colours do you see?
- See the pattern of colour without focusing. If you wear glasses, it may help to take them off.
- Is there movement in the icon or is it static?
- Put yourself in the icon. Become different figures or parts of the icon and see where you feel most comfortable.
- Give the icon a name which is a feeling word (Joy / Anger / Peace / Hurt...)
- Do you like the Icon? Why? Or why not?
- As you behold the Icon, make up a little story. What has happened? What is happening? What is going to happen?
- Does it reflect your life in any way?
- Does it suggest any word of Scripture / poem / song?
- Stay with the face that most holds your attention and speak to the Lord about how it affects you.
- You might like to write down your insights, feelings or thoughts. Hold onto these and in the weeks ahead, every so often look back on these words and ponder how they speak to your everyday patterns of relating.

Praying the Rosary for Families

Over these days of the visit of the Icon of the Holy Family to the diocese, you might like to pray the Rosary, here before the Icon or at home or out walking. During this time of prayer and reflection, you might like to include these intentions in your prayer.

Joyful Mysteries	Suggested Intentions
The Annunciation	For all who receive the news of pregnancy
The Visitation	For prisoners and their families
The Nativity	For all families
The Presentation	For all elderly people
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple	For all missing children and families waiting their return
Sorrowful Mysteries	
The Agony in the Garden	For families who are suffering
The Scourging at the Pillar	For migrant and refugee families
The Crowning with Thorns	For all persons living with addiction
The Carrying of the Cross	For medical staff and carers
The Crucifixion	For those who are dying and their loved ones
Glorious Mysteries	
The Resurrection	For those starting out in a new job / country / post treatment
The Ascension	For those with missionary hearts
The Descent of the Holy Spirit	For those being confirmed this year
The Assumption of Mary	For all teachers
The Coronation of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth	For the care of the Earth, our Common Home
Luminous Mysteries	
The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan	For all who are baptised this year
The Wedding Feast at Cana	For those preparing for marriage and couples already married
Proclamation of the Kingdom of God	For all who witness the Good News by their lives
The Transfiguration	For all who pass on the faith by their enthusiasm
The Institution of the Eucharist	For priests

Lectio Divina

- Select the passage of Scripture that you wish to pray. It makes no difference which text is chosen, nor the amount of text you pray with.
- Settle into a comfortable position and allow yourself to become silent, letting your body gently relax. You're in the company of an old friend, not an inspector!
- Read the passage slowly. Savour each portion of the reading, constantly listening for a word or phrase that somehow says, "I am for you today" In *lectio divina* God is teaching us to listen. God does not reach out and grab us; rather, God gently invites us ever more deeply into His presence.
- Repeat a word or phrase to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories and ideas. Do not be afraid of "distractions." Memories or thoughts are simply parts of yourself which, when they rise up, are asking to be given to God along with the rest of your inner self. Allow this inner pondering, this rumination, to invite you into dialogue with God.
- Then talk with God as if you were having a heart to heart conversation with your closest friend, whom you know loves and accepts you. Experience God using the word or phrase that He has given you as a means of blessing, of transforming the ideas and memories. Rest in God's embrace. Rejoice in the knowledge that God is with you in both words and silence. Sometimes the fruit of our prayer lies in action – how we see another or a new way of listening or relating in our everyday circumstances with family and friends.

Wedding Feast of Cana

John 2:1-12

Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine." Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me." She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it." Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim.

“Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host,” Jesus said, and they did. When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn’t know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, “Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you’ve saved the best till now!”

This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum along with his mother, brothers, and disciples, and stayed several days.

Jesus heals Jairus’ daughter Luke 8:42-56

On his return, Jesus was welcomed by a crowd. They were all there expecting him. A man came up, Jairus by name. He was president of the meeting place. He fell at Jesus’ feet and begged him to come to his home because his twelve-year-old daughter, his only child, was dying. Jesus went with him, making his way through the pushing, jostling crowd.

In the crowd that day there was a woman who for twelve years had been afflicted with haemorrhages. She had spent every penny she had on doctors but not one had been able to help her. She slipped in from behind and touched the edge of Jesus’ robe. At that very moment her haemorrhaging stopped. Jesus said, “Who touched me?” When no one stepped forward, Peter said, “But Master, we’ve got crowds of people on our hands. Dozens have touched you.” Jesus insisted, “Someone touched me. I felt power discharging from me.” When the woman realized that she couldn’t remain hidden, she knelt trembling him. In front of all the people, she blurted out her story—why she touched him and how at that same moment she was healed. Jesus said, “Daughter, you took a risk trusting me, and now you’re healed and whole. Live well, live blessed!”

While he was still talking, someone from the leader’s house came up and told him, “Your daughter died. No need now to bother the Teacher.” Jesus overheard and said, “Don’t be upset. Just trust me and everything will be all right.” Going into the house, he wouldn’t let anyone enter with him except Peter, John, James, and the child’s parents. Everyone was crying and carrying on over her. Jesus said, “Don’t cry. She didn’t die; she’s sleeping.” They laughed at him. They knew she was dead. Then Jesus, gripping her hand, called, “My dear child, get up.” She was up in an instant, up and breathing again! He told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were ecstatic, but Jesus warned them to keep quiet. “Don’t tell a soul what happened in this room.”

Jesus' early life in Nazareth Luke 2:41-52

Every year Jesus' parents travelled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbours. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt. His mother said, "Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

Jesus said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?" But they had no idea what he was talking about. So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.



Paidir Teaghlaigh do Chruinniú Domhanda na dTeaghlach 2018

A Dhia, ár n-Athair,
In Íosa do Mhac is bráithre agus siúracha sinn,
teaghlach amháin, i Spioraid do ghrá.

Beannaigh sinn le haoibhneas an ghrá.
Déan foighneach agus cinealta sinn, séimh agus fial.
Bímis fáilteach dóibh siúd ar an ngannchuid.
I maithiúnas agus i síocháin go mairimid.

Tabhair aire dos na teaghlaigh uilig le do chúram geanúil,
go háirithe iad siúd a bhfuilimid ag guigh orthu anois:

(Cuimhnímís ar bhaill dár dteaghlaigh agus ar dhaoine eile in a n-ainm)

Méadaigh ár gcreideamh,
neartaigh ár ndóchas,
coinnigh slán sinn i do ghrá,
bímis i gcónaí buíoch as ár gcomhbeatha.
Iarraimid é seo, trí Chríost ár dTiarna

Amen

*A Mhuire, máthair agus treóraí, guígh orainn.
A Naoimh Iósaf, athair agus cosantóir, guígh orainn.
A Naomh Joachim agus a naomh Áine, guígí orainn.
A Naomh Louis agus a naomh Zélie Martin, guígí orainn.*

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.



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