



Moment Two: Families of Faith

First and Second Class (P3–P4)

Background for Teachers

[N]o family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love. ... All of us are called to keep striving towards something greater than ourselves and our families, and every family must feel this constant impulse. Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 325)

Pope Francis is the Bishop of Rome and the visible head of the Roman Catholic Church. According to recent Vatican figures, Pope Francis ministers to over 1,285 million Catholics across the world.¹ To keep in touch with all his flock, the Pope uses a variety of mediums. He addresses weekly audiences in person, he tweets, he broadcasts, and he writes documents and letters.

In 2016, the Pope wrote an apostolic exhortation, which is a document highlighting for Catholics the teaching of the Church. The title of this document is *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*. It teaches on love in the family. It recognises that all families experience challenges and difficulties, and significantly that no family is perfect! 'Perfect families do not exist ... This is a great legacy that we can give to our children, a very good lesson: we make mistakes, yes; we have problems, yes. But we know that is not really what counts. We know that mistakes, problems and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to others, to draw closer to God.'²

In August 2018, World Meeting of Families will be celebrated in Dublin, and throughout Ireland. The World Meeting of Families, which is held every three years, celebrates family life and the Church's commitment to supporting families. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for World Meeting of Families 2018 is The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World.

Catholic Schools Week 2018, in preparation for this unique jamboree, will celebrate the family. Pope Francis reminds us in *Amoris Laetitia* that the Church is a family of families. This week we will celebrate love in the family at home, the school family, the parish family and the universal family.

1. *The Pontifical Yearbook 2017 and the Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae 2015*, 06.04.2017.

2. Pope Francis' address to Festival of Families, Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, 27 September 2015.



From the Curriculum: Level 2

Christian Faith

Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus showed us God's love (1 Jn 4:9)
- Jesus had a special love for God his Father (CCC 473: uniqueness of Jesus; Mk 14:32–6; Lk 10:21–2)
- Jesus showed his love for God his Father by praying to God, by his actions and by his preaching of the Good News (CCC 2599; Mk 6:46; Lk 6:12; Mt 14:23)
- Jesus taught that God Our Father loves us and wants us to be his children

Creation

- God our Father is our creator, who loves us as his children (Gn 1:26–7; Gn 2:5–7)

Mystery of the Church (Family: Domestic Church, Community: Local Church)

- The Church is a community of people gathered together to hear God's word and live out his gospel commands (CCC 749–52)
- God's family includes people of every age, race, culture and ability (CCC 775)
- The Church is a community that proclaims the Good News of Jesus (mission)
- Catholics come together to worship as a community in the parish (CCC 1069, 1071, 2179)
- We do not live our faith alone, but in the community of the Church
- Introduce the Pope as the visible head of the Church on earth (CCC 880–82; 936–7)
- Discuss families as part of the local Church community. Christian presence in the family
- Explore the Catholic school as part of the Church community. What happens in our Catholic school? Patron Saint of the School

Sacred Scripture

Jesus' Birth and Youth

- Story of Jesus' birth (Lk 2:1–20).
- Presentation: Anna and Simeon (Lk 2:22–40).
- Jesus is found in the temple (Lk 2:41–52).

Jesus' Public Life

- Jesus praying (Mk 6:46; Lk 6:12; Mt 14:23)
- Jesus light of the world (Jn 8:12)

Liturgy and Prayer

Prayer

- In the 'Our Father' Jesus taught his followers how to pray (CCC 2607)

Formal Prayer

- Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary

Additional Prayers

- Family blessing
- Prayer to Mary, Jesus' mother and ours

Sacraments

- Baptism is the sacrament through which people become children of God and members of the family of the Church (CCC 1213, 1226, 1239–41, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, 1278–80, 1282)

The Mass Sacred Meal

- At Mass the parish family shares a holy/sacred meal like Jesus did at the Last Supper (SC 10)

Christian Morality

Social Teaching of the Church

- Our Church family prays and cares for the sick in special ways

RSE in a Christian Context

- My family is a gift from God
- Qualities and values of the Holy Family of Nazareth
- Jesus' love is present when our parents/guardians love each other and love us
- Each member of a family has responsibilities to the others (CCC 2201)



Monday: Our Family at Home

Reflective Quote

I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. The Synod's reflections show us that there is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 57)

Consider

We all belong to a family. Even though families are all different and live in many different places, they share one thing: love.

In a family, everyone is related. There are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews. Explore the children's experience of family relationships and encourage them to name those in their own family.

► Think of and share the names of all the people in your family.

Prayer

(Repeat after teacher)

Loving God hear our prayer.

Keep our family in your loving care,

Today and always.

Amen.

► Look at the picture below.

- Who is in the picture?



Just like all of us, Pope Francis has a family: his mother, Regina, his father, Mario, his brothers, Alberto and Oscar, and his sisters, Marta and Maria. He loves and cares for his family and they love and care for him in return.

Family and the love in families is very important to Pope Francis. He has asked us to think about and celebrate our love for each other in our families.

We remember that since we were baptised, we also belong to God's family. This week we will look at the different ways we can celebrate the love we share in our different families.

When the summer holidays arrive, we will have a huge celebration for all the families around the world. Pope Francis has asked that the celebration in August will begin in Ireland.

Note: Further information on the ninth World Meeting of Families, 21–26 August 2018 is available on www.worldmeeting2018.ie



Explore

Jesus had a family too. He lived in Nazareth with his mother, Mary, and her husband, Joseph.



Look at the icon of the Holy Family.

- Can you name all the people in the picture?
- How do you think they cared for each other?
- What kind of things do you think the Holy Family did together?
- What might they have chatted about?
- Where might they have gone shopping?
- What pastimes/hobbies/interests might they have enjoyed together?
- Who brought Jesus to school when he was young?
- When did they say their prayers?

Prayer

When Jesus grew up he taught us about his father in heaven. Jesus taught us to pray to God our father. **Our Father ...**

Read: Jesus is Found in the Temple (Lk 2:41–52)

Consider

- How is our family like the Holy Family?
- What things do we do together that the Holy family would have done together also?
- Remember all the times we care for each other in our family.

Song: 'When Jesus was a Boy' (*Grow in Love*, First Class/P3, Theme 2: Jesus, p. 83)

Activity

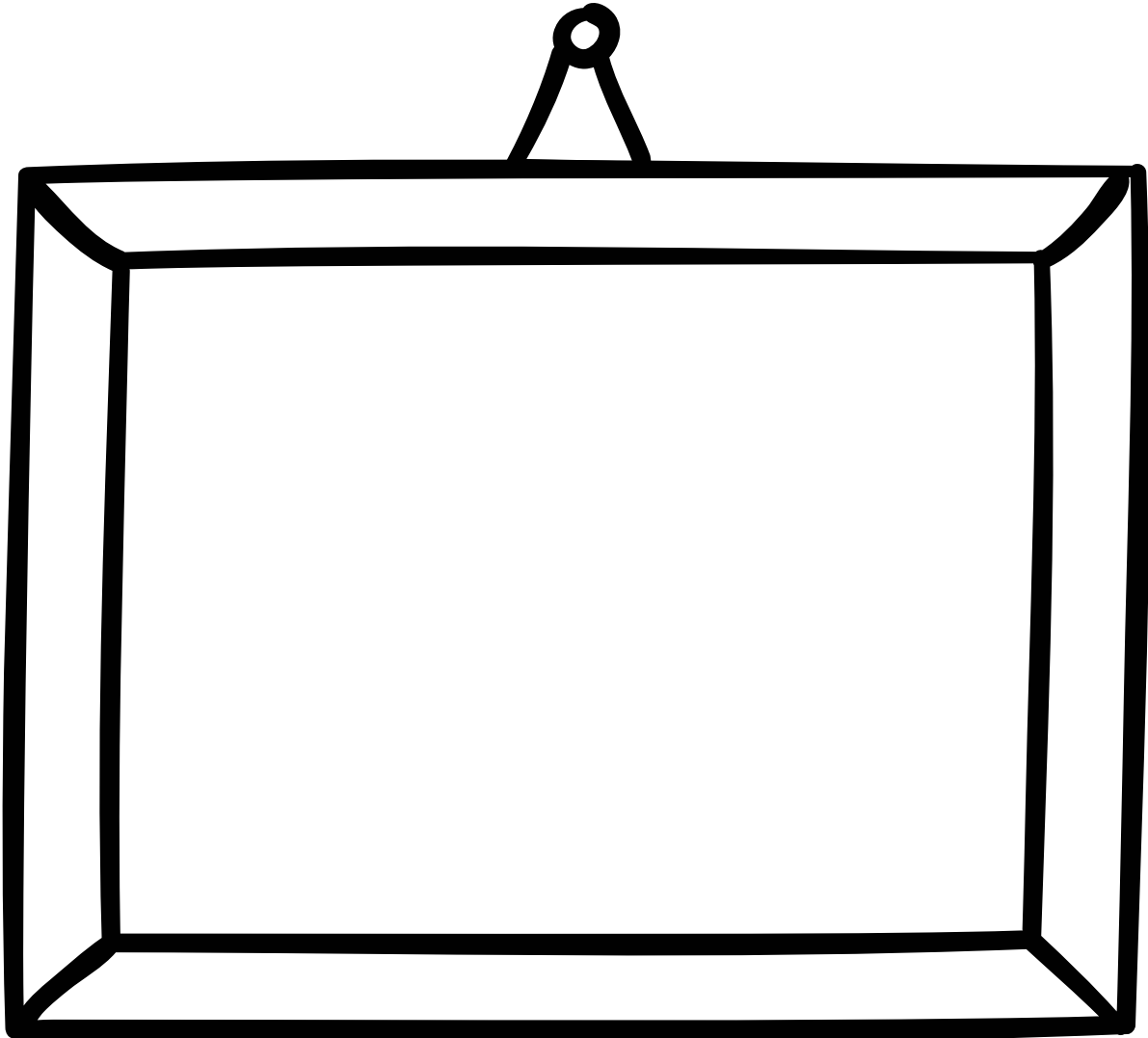
Draw a picture of the members of your family on Monday's activity page. Display these around your class prayer space.



Monday: Our Family at Home

Activity Page

My Family



Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
help our family to be
more and more like your
Holy Family.





Tuesday: Our School Family

Reflective Quote

Schools do not replace parents, but complement them. This is a basic principle: 'all other participants in the process of education are only able to carry out their responsibilities in the name of the parents, with their consent and, to a certain degree, with their authorization.' (*Amoris Laetitia*, 84)

Consider

Remind the children of yesterday's lesson. Recall the Holy Family and the different activities that our family and the Holy Family engaged in as a family.



Our school is like a family. We all belong together in a special way. We are all connected in a special way in our school. We do lots of activities by ourselves, in groups, as a class and as a school.

Consider the many activities we engage in during the school day and decide if they are class activities or whole-school activities. For example, art, PE, lunchtime, assembly, handwriting, prayer. Include examples that are specific to your own circumstances.

Just as families have names, our school has a special name. Discuss the name of your school and its religious significance.

Prayer

(Repeat after teacher)

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Keep our school family in your loving care,

Today and always.

Amen.

Explore



Pope Francis reminds us that our school is a family as well. Just like at home, different people have different tasks to do. We care and respect all those in our school family. We care for all the members of our school family the way we care for those in our family at home.

► Think of some of the ways we treat each other at school.

- When are we kind to others? Helpful? Generous? Chatty? Attentive? Playful?

We care for each other and for the environment around our school. We help and share. We take turns and always show respect. We bless ourselves with the sign of the cross and we pray, just like Jesus asks us to.

Activity

Complete the school fact sheet on Tuesday's activity page and display them around the class prayer space.

Consider

Investigate the school or parish patron saint. Consider how their example of faith has relevance to your school today.

- How do the saints help others to learn about and love God?
- Do you have a school prayer/school song or anthem?



Tuesday: Our School Family

Activity Page

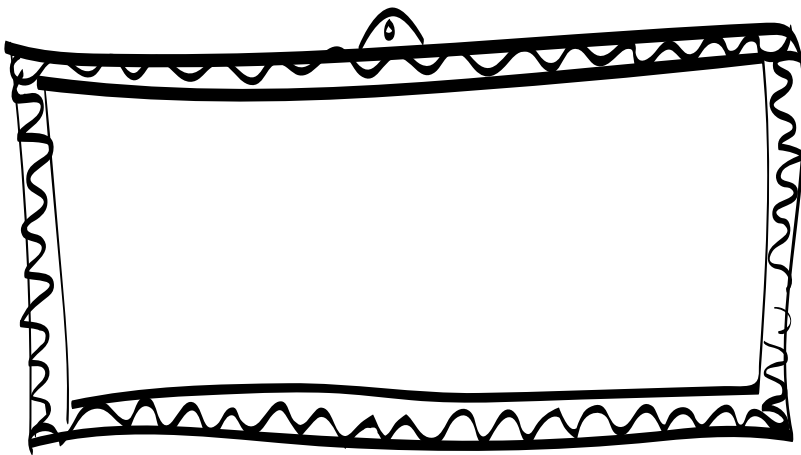
My Catholic school is a family too!

Fact Sheet

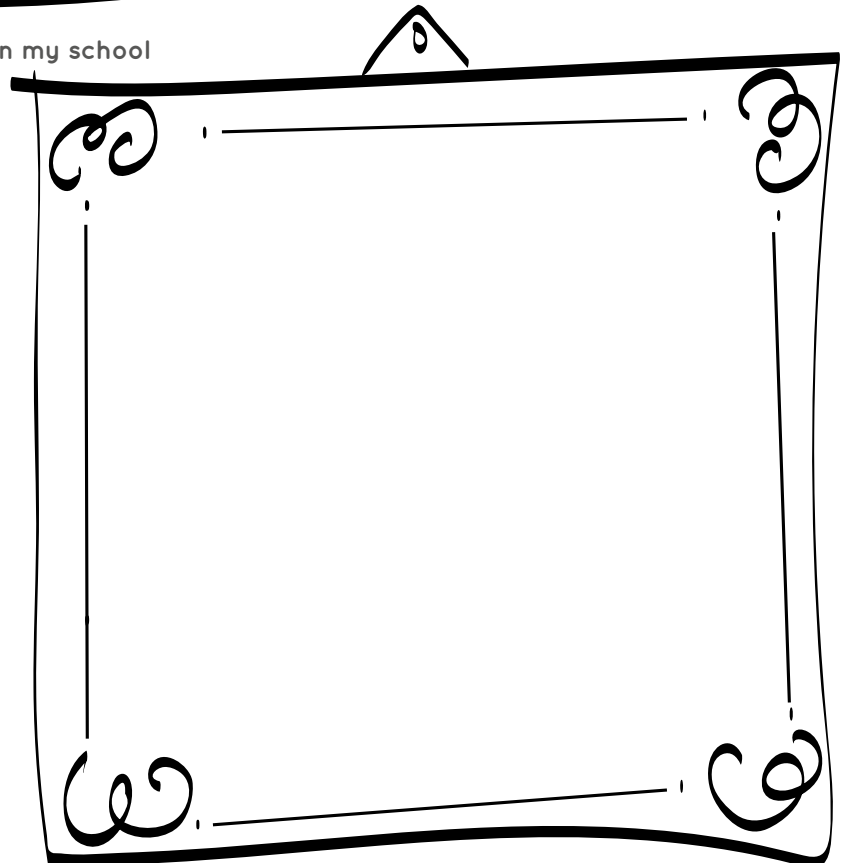
My name is _____

My school is called _____

I am in _____ Class.



These are some of the people in my school

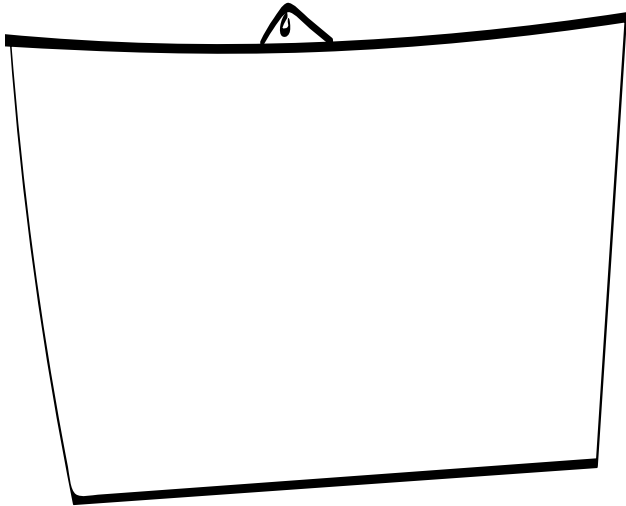


This is how we care for others in my school



Tuesday: Our School Family

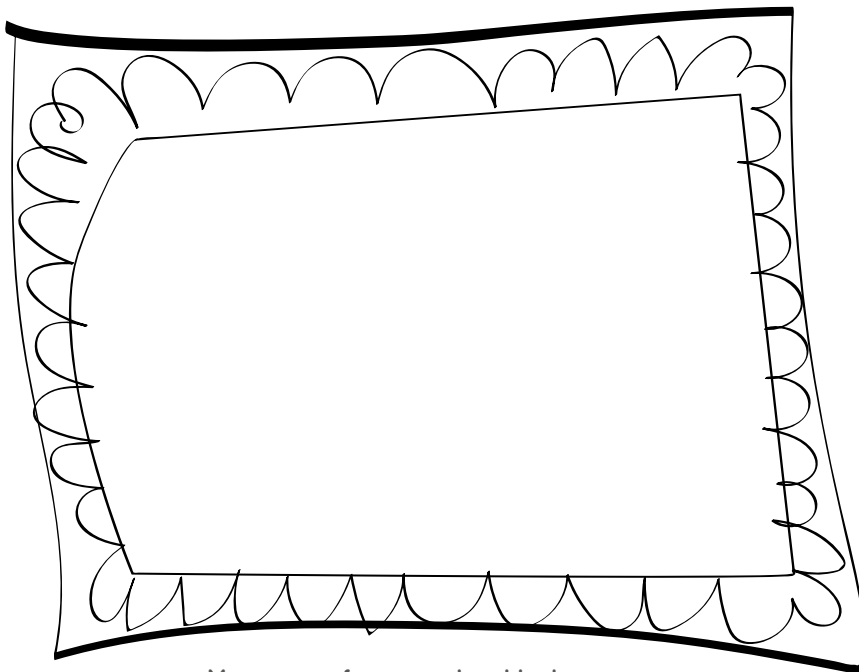
Activity Page



This is a picture of my school



This is my favourite game



My prayer for my school today



Thursday: Our Parish Family

Reflective Quote

The main contribution to the pastoral care of families is offered by the parish, which is the family of families, where small communities, ecclesial movements and associations live in harmony. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 202)

Consider

Today we will look at another way that God's family is connected by love. Each of us lives in a community, or in a group that is connected by God's love. That special group or community is called a parish.

Because we are connected by God's love, we celebrate God in a special building. Sometimes this building is called 'God's House'.

- What do we call it?
- Name the local parish church or churches.

Note: A set of photographs of the local church would be very useful.

Prayer

(Repeat after teacher)

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Keep our parish family in your loving care,

Today and always.

Amen.

Explore

'Parishioners' is the special name for all those who are members of the parish. The parishioners come together on lots of different occasions, but it is always for the same reason: God's love for them as part of his family. The parish celebrates because God loves us and also because we love God.

On Sundays (and Saturday evenings) the parish comes together at Mass. The priest leads us in this special celebration. At Mass we remember God's everlasting love for us. We listen to stories from a very special and sacred book called the Bible. We hear how Jesus teaches us about God our father and how to love him by loving others, especially those in our family. Jesus taught us how to pray to God our father.

- What is the name of the special prayer that we pray to our heavenly father?



Let's explore our local parish.

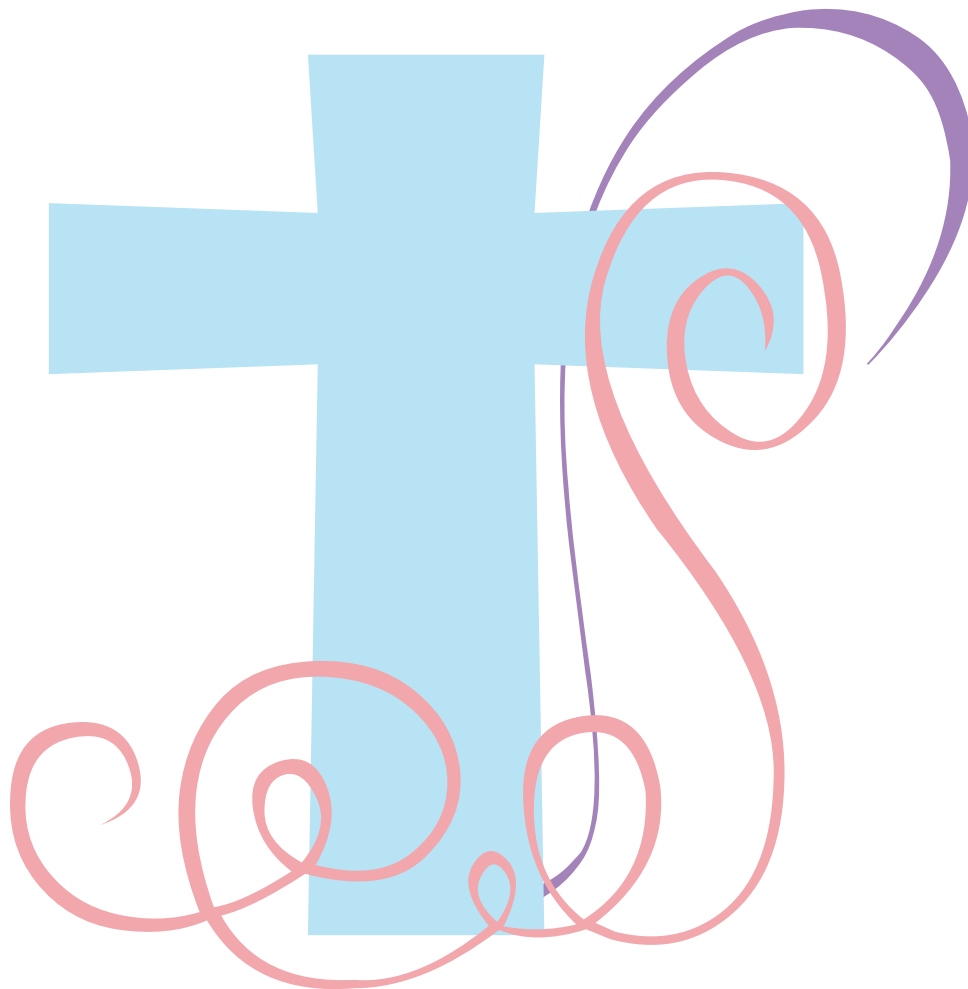
- What is the name of our local priest?
- Do you know what time our Masses are on at every week?
- Can you name any other people who work in the local church?

Parishioners come together for other occasions in the church.

- Can you think of other occasions/celebrations in the church? (e.g. Baptism, Marriage, Funeral, First Penance)

Activity

On Thursday's activity page, complete the special prayer that Jesus taught us. We can say this prayer at Mass with our parish, in school or at home. It is a prayer that all those who love God and are part of God's family can say. Display the completed prayers around the class prayer space.





Thursday: Our Parish Family

Activity Page

Fill in the blanks in the prayer below and pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Amen	Father	from	heaven	not	name	our
day	kingdom	us	not	forgive	bread	earth

Our _____,
Who art in _____,
Hallowed be thy _____.
Thy _____ come.
Thy will be done on _____,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this _____ our daily _____.
And forgive us _____ trespasses,
As we _____ those who trespass
against _____.
And lead us _____ into temptation,
But deliver us _____ evil,
_____.

Friday: Our World Family

Reflective Quote

The better we live on this earth, the greater the happiness we will be able to share with our loved ones in heaven. The more we are able to mature and develop in this world, the more gifts will we be able to bring to the heavenly banquet. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 258)

Consider

Pope Francis helps us to remember that God loves each of us and that we all belong to God's family.

Pope Francis likes to keep in touch with all the people in the world. Sometimes he visits people, sometimes he phones people, sometimes he sends messages on his phone, sometimes he uses his computer to send messages and sometimes he writes letters. Last year Pope Francis wrote a letter to all of us, saying that God loves us and reminding us that our family is very special. He asks us to share that love with everyone in our family.



This week we remember that there are lots of different families. We talked about our family at home, our school family and our parish family. Pope Francis teaches us that the world is a big family. He wants us to remember to care for everyone and everything in the world just like we care for those in our family.

Prayer

(Repeat after teacher)

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Keep our global family in your loving care,

Today and always.

Amen.



Explore

God's family stretches all around the world. We are called to care for each member of God's family just like our family at home, our school family and our parish.

Discuss with the pupils how we can care for our world family. We can do this by caring especially for those in our world family who are hungry, poor, homeless or sick. We can also care for our world family by caring for the earth so it is a beautiful place for everyone to live in.

To be a good member of our world family the two key things we can do are **care** and **share**.

Explore the good work for our world family done by Society of Missionary Children at: www.wmi.ie/about-smc/



Activity

Read the poem on Friday's activity page and create a list of ways that pupils can use the two key words, **care** and **share**, to show love to our world family.

Example:

Care for each other

Share our food

Care for animals

Share our time

Care for trees and flowers

Share our love



Friday: Our World Family

Activity Page



We are part of a world family,
A place we want to live happily.
To make the world a place of love,
We can share and care, like God
above.

Care for our world family

1.
.....
2.
.....
3.
.....
4.
.....

Share with our world family

1.
.....
2.
.....
3.
.....
4.
.....