



Moment Two: Families of Faith

Third and Fourth Class (P5–P6)

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 Annuario 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 3

Christian Faith

The Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus helped people to change and 'grow' (conversion)
- Jesus spoke and acted with authority (Mt 7:28–9)
- Jesus insisted that his teaching must not only be acknowledged, but also acted upon (Mt 21:28)

The Word of God

The Word of God

- Jesus' Public Life (CCC 535–50; 1716–29)
- Feeding of the Five Thousand (Lk 9:12–17; Jn 6:1–13)
- The Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25–37)

Liturgy and Prayer

Sacraments

- In the sacrament of Baptism, Christians become children of God and brothers and sisters of every other member of the Christian community (CCC 1265)
- In Baptism, God gives the Christian God's own life. This is called grace (CCC 460, 1266, 1999: sanctifying grace)
- In the sacrament of Baptism, God gives Christians the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them to follow Jesus (CCC 1266, 1996)

- God blesses those who care for the poor (Mt 25:31–6; CCC 2443–7)
- Jesus was angry with those who inflicted hurt on the poor (Mt 21:12–17)
- Man and woman are called by God to be stewards of creation (Gn 1:26)
- Include stories of organisations that care for the poor (GS 88): Trócaire, the Samaritans, Society of St Vincent de Paul, Society of Missionary Children, etc.

Christian Morality

Social Teaching of the Church

- Jesus saw the gift and worth of each person, therefore, the Christian is called to show love to everyone without exception (CCC 1825)
- Christians value every person: young and old, sick and people with disabilities
- People with disabilities are to be assisted to lead their lives to the full (CCC 2276)
- All people have equal dignity, as they are all made in the image and likeness of God (CCC 225, 356–61, 369, 1604, 1700–1, 1944–6, 2319, 2334)
- Every kind of discrimination, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion is against God's will (GS 29)



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

Today we are focusing on our own families. Families come in all shapes and sizes. Each family is unique and made up of the people who love and care for us. In our families we love and are loved by others.

No family is perfect but Pope Francis tells us that all families should 'live in love'.

Begin by having the pupils talk about and name the people in their families. This isn't just our mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, but can include our grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles and others who care for and love us.

Explore

Our families are places of love. Love can be very hard to describe but one of the followers of Jesus, St Paul, gave us a great description of what love is.

Read St Paul's description of love to the class or display it on the IWB.

1 Corinthians 13:4–8

Love is **patient** and **kind**; it is not **jealous** or **proud**;

Love is **not selfish** or **irritable**: Love does not keep a record of wrongs;

Love is not happy with evil but is happy with the **truth**.

Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail.

Love is **eternal**.



Discuss with the class what this description from St Paul tells us about love. Explore the highlighted words, what they mean and how we can live out St Paul's description of love in our families.

- How can we be patient/kind/truthful within our family?
- Sometimes we can be irritable or selfish. What should we do about this?

Activity

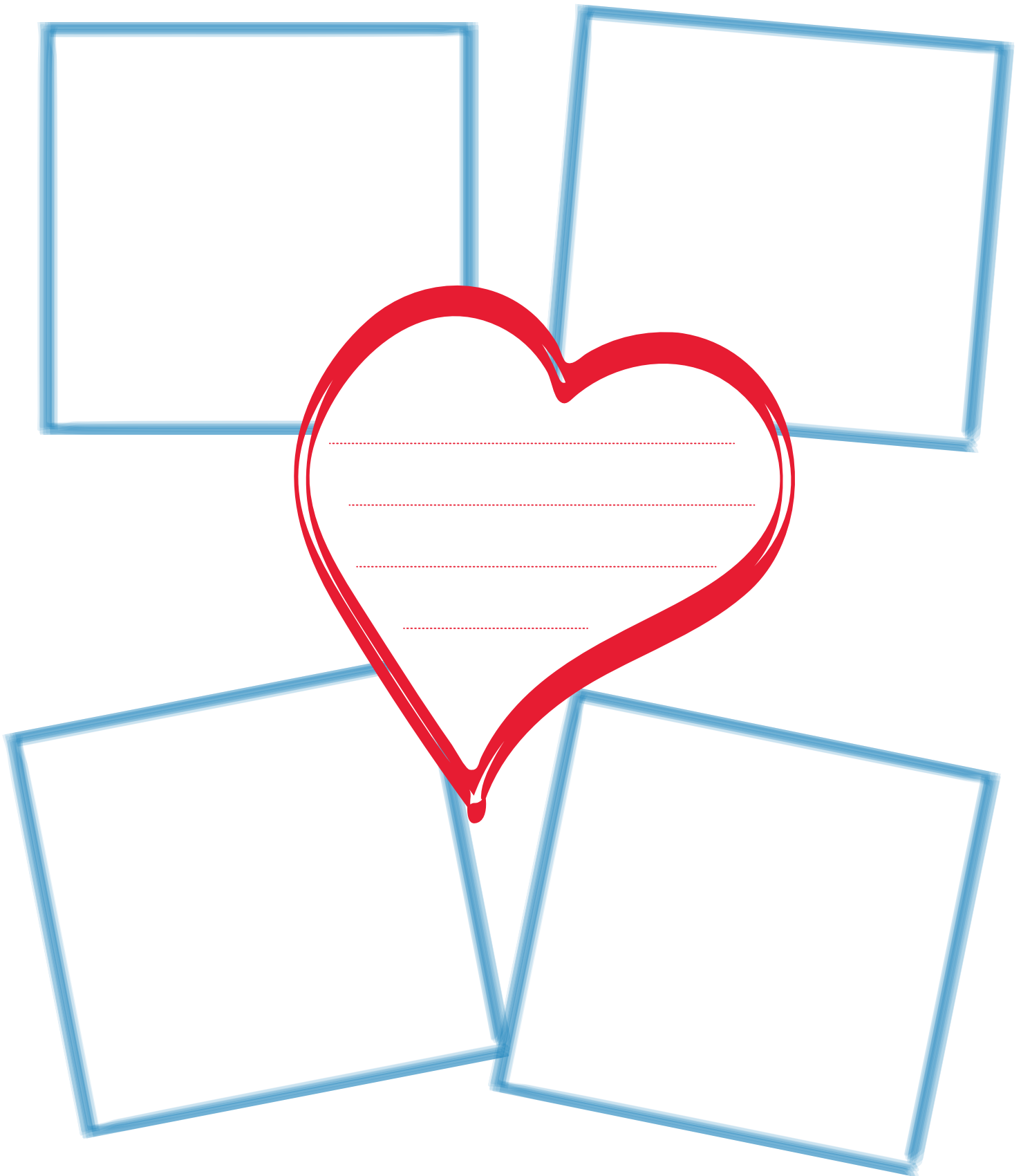
Ask pupils to select their favourite line from St Paul's description of love and write it in the centre of Monday's activity page. They can then surround this message with pictures/drawings of some of the members of their family to help them remember how to show and nurture love in their families.

Alternatively, pupils could write their own definition or understanding of love, particularly in the family, and surround that with pictures/drawings of their families.



Monday: Our Family at Home

Activity Page





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

Our school is a family of friends, teachers and people who care for us. It is a place of love. The greatest commandment that Jesus gave us was to love one another. Loving everyone is not always easy. We have to try every day to love those around us and to remember that our school is another family to which we belong. To teach them how to be loving to others, Jesus told his followers many stories. Ask the pupils to think of stories Jesus told.

Explore

One of Jesus' stories that teaches us how to be loving and caring in school is the story of the Good Samaritan.

Watch a modern take on the parable made in an Irish primary school at: www.icatholic.ie/good-samaritan-st-colmans-primary-school-lambeg/

Alternatively, read the parable of the Good Samaritan below.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus said:

'There once was a Jewish man walking along a road. He was coming from Jerusalem and was heading to Jericho, which was a full day or two of walking.

'The road was rocky and there were small hills all around. The man was just humming to himself and enjoying the nice day when suddenly a group of men jumped out from behind a hill. They took all his belongings and tore off most of his clothes. They didn't want him to follow them so they beat him up very badly, and left him lying and bleeding on the side of the road.

'A few minutes later, a priest was walking down the same path and noticed the man lying on the side of the road. Do you know what he did? You'd think he would run over and help the man. Instead he crossed the road and walked on the other side and acted like he didn't see the man.

'About an hour or so later, another man, called a Levite, was walking down the road. Levites were people who assisted priests with their work. He would probably help the man. But you know what he did? He slowed down and walked a little closer to the man, but then kept walking without helping him at all.

'Just a few minutes later, another man came walking. He was a Samaritan. One thing you should know about Samaritans is that Jews didn't like them. Jews usually didn't treat Samaritans very well, so they never got along. The man who was dying on the road was a Jew. So what do you think the Samaritan did? You would think he would walk by and maybe even laugh at the man.

'But as soon as he saw the man, he went over to him and felt compassion for him. He put bandages on his sores and poured oil and wine (which were quite expensive) on the sores to prevent them from getting worse. Then he lifted the man on his own donkey and took him to a hotel to take care of him.



'The next day the Samaritan took out enough money so the man could stay at the hotel until he was well enough to leave. He paid the man at the front desk and asked him to take care of the man. If he wasn't better after about two months the Samaritan would come back and pay for any extra cost.'

After Jesus finished the story, he asked, 'Which of the three men do you think was a neighbour to the man who was left beaten on the side of the road?'

The man who asked him the question at the beginning replied, 'The one who had compassion and helped him.'

Jesus told him, 'Go and do the same.'

Explore

Explore either the story or the video with the class, in particular focussing on how the parable teaches us to love and care for those in our school family.

Our school is a family so we must treat everyone with love and kindness.

- Can we think of a time we were not loving to someone in our class/school?

Activity

Write a code of love for your school or classroom to live by using Tuesday's activity page.

Example:

Live your life well

Other people matter

Value every day

Every action counts

Or

Create your own modern version of the Good Samaritan drama in groups.

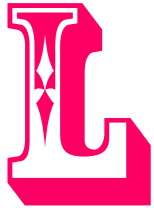




Tuesday: Our School Family

Activity Page

My code of love to live by in school









Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you,
Hear what I say and do as I do,
Our school is a place where we live this command,
A family together just as he planned.



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

We are born into our families but, as followers of Jesus, we belong to a bigger family and a community of believers or Christians. At a local level, this family is our parish. Often to become part of a group or community we are initiated. This means we go through a process that makes us a member. To become a member of our parish community we are baptised.

Explore

- Have you ever been to a Baptism?
- What did you see? What do you remember?
- Do you know where you were baptised?
- Who was there? Do you have photos of your Baptism?

Note: Adults and babies/children can be baptised but for the purpose of this activity we are referring to infant Baptism as it is the most common and probably most familiar to pupils.

A number of very important actions happen during Baptism.

Pouring: Water is poured over the baby's head. This means the baby is made fresh for a new life with Jesus.

Anointing: The baby is anointed with two oils (catechumens and chrism). The oils give the baby strength for their faith journey with Jesus throughout their life.

Lighting: The baptismal candle is lit from the paschal candle in the church, symbolising that Jesus is the light of the world.

Wrapping: The baby is wrapped in a white blanket/shawl, showing that they are now part of the Christian family. They are wrapped in the love of Jesus.

Activity

Explore the actions with pupils. Invite them to recall the four actions on Thursday's activity page and draw a picture of each action being carried out. Invite pupils to find out about their own Baptism and help them to identify the parish they are part of.



Thursday: Our Parish Family

Activity Page

My Parish Family

I am a member of _____ parish.

I was baptised in _____

Church on _____.

The key actions in Baptism:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



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*, 202)

Consider

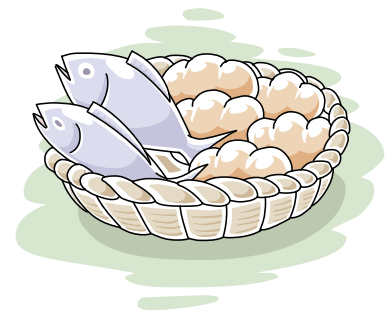
We are part of a world family. As a world family, we have a responsibility to care for the world we all share, the world God created for us. This can mean planet earth itself or all its people and creatures. Either way, we are all one family here on earth and Jesus asks us to care for one another and the world he created.

Explore

Read the story Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (Jn 6:1–15).

Use some of these key question to explore the story.

- How many people were following Jesus?
- What food did the boy have?
- What did Jesus do?
- What is it like to feel hungry?
- How would you feel if you were very hungry and someone gave you food?



In Ireland, we have plenty to eat; however, in many parts of our world people do not have enough to eat. We can take an important message from the Bible story about helping those in our world family who do not have enough to eat. Although we cannot work a miracle as Jesus did, we can, and are called to as followers of Jesus, take action to help those who are hungry.

Activity

Use Friday's activity page to explore the miracle of Jesus and the theme of world hunger.



Trócaire
Working for a just world.



Friday: Our World Family

Activity Page

Most of us are aware that there are many hungry people in the world. They range from those who don't quite get enough nutrition to be healthy, to those who have no access to food for weeks on end. Poverty and other issues like floods, droughts and war can make it impossible for families, even whole communities, to get enough food, and sometimes enough water.

Children are often the hardest hit when famine comes, simply because their small bodies can store less fat, water and nutrients. In short, when the hard times come, children are the ones most likely to die. While we may not be able to work a miracle like Jesus, we can help. Let's start by looking at some key statistics.

Here are a few that illustrate just how severe the problem is:

- One in nine people in our world go to bed hungry every night
- Every ten seconds a child dies from hunger
- 98 per cent of the world's hungry live in developing countries (most of them in Asia)
- 60 per cent of the world's hungry are women and girls
- One third of the food produced around the world is never eaten

Find three more facts about hunger and poverty in our world:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Take Action

- Make a poster for your school to help others learn the truth about world hunger using one of your facts.
- Find out how you can contribute to the work of organisations, like Trocaire, that are fighting world hunger. Check out: www.trocaire.org

Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' (Mt 14)