



Moment Three: Families of Love

Assembly Resources



'Open your heart to faith and God will do the rest.'

(Pope Francis, general audience, St Peter's Square, 29 March 2017)

Prayer Space

Each class will present a symbol (e.g. poem, story, music, artwork) demonstrating the theme of love. Pupils will also write a few lines to explain the significance of their gift.

This will be displayed in the prayer space and on PowerPoint.

Leader: *Invite the pupils to stand for the opening song. During the song, ask the pupils to bring the candle and Bible to the prayer space.*

Opening Song:

World Meeting of Families Hymn, 'A Joy for All the Earth'

Welcome Address:

We begin by lighting our paschal candle to remind us that God is with us.

A few moments of silence.

Today we come together as a school community to celebrate family life and to pray for all those we love. We celebrate God's love for us and our love for each other.

In *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)* Pope Francis tells us that 'The Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes' (315). Family life is not easy but it is a place where we can experience love.

When we think of love in our families we shouldn't think of it just as a feeling. Pope Francis says, 'Rather, it should be understood along the lines of the Hebrew verb "to love"; it is "to do good". As Saint Ignatius of Loyola said, "Love is shown more by deeds than by words"' (AL, 94).

Opening Prayer:

World Meeting of Families Official Prayer



Gathering Ritual:

On the prayer space there are four unlit candles. Place the paschal candle/large candle in a prominent place as the four candles will be lit from this one.

Pupil: We welcome all who have come to share in this special prayer assembly with us. We gather to say thanks to God.

We offer you the light of hope. Carry this light of hope in your heart and share God's love in everything you say and do.

A student, using a taper, lights the first candle from the paschal candle.

Parent/grandparent: We offer you the light of love. Carry this light of love with you wherever you go and remember that there will always be a light burning for you at home.

A parent/grandparent lights the second candle from the paschal candle.

Member of staff: We offer you the light of joy. Carry this light of joy out into the world through our relationships with family and friends, in our work and play and in our service to others.

A member of staff lights the third candle from the paschal candle.

Parish member: We offer you the light of faith. Carry this light of faith out into the world and remember to be part of the Christian community and be a light for all the world.

A parish member lights the fourth candle from the paschal candle.

Penitential Reflection:

God loves us so much that he forgives all our mistakes. Lovingly, he watches and waits, hoping that when we choose to wander away from his love, we will one day turn back to him.

When we have allowed angry words to hurt and divide us.

Lord, forgive us.

Lord, forgive us.

When we have chosen the way that is not God's way.

Christ, forgive us.

Christ, forgive us.

When we have been quick to judge and unforgiving towards each other.

Lord, forgive us.

Lord, forgive us.



Scripture Reading:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (15:15–17)

Glory to you, O Lord.

I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Witness:

Team Hoyt: A Story of Unconditional Love
Youtube video (teamhoyt.com)



Rick Hoyt was born in 1962. As a result of oxygen deprivation to his brain at the time of his birth, Rick was diagnosed as a spastic quadriplegic with cerebral palsy. His parents, Dick and Judy, were told that there was no chance of him recovering, and little hope for Rick to live a 'normal' life. This was the beginning of Dick and Judy's quest for Rick's inclusion in community, sports, education and one day, the workplace.

In the spring of 1977, Rick told his father that he wanted to participate in a five-mile charity run for a lacrosse player who had been paralysed in an accident. Far from being a long-distance runner, Dick agreed to push his son in his wheelchair and they finished all five miles, coming in next to last. That night, Rick told his father, 'Dad, when I'm running, it feels like I'm not handicapped.'

This was the first of over a thousand races completed by Team Hoyt, including marathons, duathlons and triathlons (six of which were Ironman competitions).

Dick and Rick biked and ran across the US in 1992, completing 3,735 miles in forty-five days. Team Hoyt's thousandth race was the Boston marathon in 2009, Rick's favourite marathon.

Neither Dick nor Rick is ready to retire and they continue to run to this day.

Rick was once asked if he could give his father one thing, what would it be? Rick responded, 'The thing I'd most like is for my dad to sit in the chair and I would push him for once.'





Reflection:

The Heart of the Matter

Charles Pierre Péguy

I myself will dream a dream within you
Good dreams come from me, you know
My dreams seem impossible,
not too practical.

not for the cautious man or woman
a little risky sometimes,
a trifle brash perhaps
Some of my friends prefer
to rest more comfortably,
in sounder sleep,
with visionless eyes
But, from those who share my dreams
I ask a little patience, a little humour;
some small courage,
and a listening heart –

I will do the rest

Then they will risk
and wonder at their daring.
Run, and marvel at their speed,

Build, and stand in awe at the beauty of their
building.

You will meet me often as you work,
in your companions who share the risk,
in your friends who believe in you enough
to lend their own hands,
their own hearts
to your building
In the people who will stand in your doorway.
stay awhile,
and walk away knowing they, too, can find a
dream.

There will be sunfilled days,
And sometimes it will rain,
a little variety,
both coming from me.
So, come now, be content.
It is my dream you dream,
my house you build,
my caring you witness,
my love you share,
and this is the heart of the matter.

Prayer of Intercession:

Leader: God, our loving father, with simple trust and humble hope, we your children come before you with all our needs:

1. We pray for leaders in our government and in our churches that they remember the needs of others in their decision-making, especially the poor and deprived. Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
2. We ask that we will always value the gifts of love and friendship. We pray for the courage to say things that are truthful and right, and to act towards others as our convictions lead us, even if some others will be hurt or might misunderstand. Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
3. We pray that our loving friendship with Jesus will be strong enough to give us strength to do what he wants, that our lives and our relationships be honest and genuine. We know he is ahead of us, calling us into further love and courage. Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
4. We ask you, Lord, that we may be sensitive and responsive to the different needs we hear about in our own parish and in countries poorer than ours. Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
5. We pray for families who are afflicted by the challenges of addiction to alcohol, gambling and drugs. Lord, may we in our friendships offer support, comfort and encouragement. Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
6. Lord, we thank you for the support of our parents throughout the years. We hope that they know how much we appreciate their unconditional love, their generosity, their understanding and their constant encouragement. Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.
7. Lord, we pray for the gift of healthy relationships with others. May we find meaning and love in those relationships. Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.



Catholic Schools Week 2018

Leader: Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts, let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

A few moments of silence.

Lord God, we ask you to receive our prayers and answer them according to your holy will. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Father, may your love guide our daily lives. By knowing and loving you may we know and love our neighbour, and become a friend to everyone we meet.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song:

Ephesian Prayer