



# Catholic Schools Week 2018

Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families



Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families 2018. From 21–26 August 2018, families and others from all over the world will gather to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. This event presents a special opportunity for school families to celebrate not only the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children, but also the vital role that Catholic schools play in assisting parents.

In partnership with World Meeting of Families 2018, the Catholic Schools Week Steering Committee has developed a one-year catechetical programme for Catholic primary and post-primary schools. The theme for this programme is **Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families**. The programme invites Catholic schools to reflect on and celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and parish through participation in four sub-themed catechetical moments.

**Moment One:** Families of Hope – November 2017

**Moment Two:** Families of Faith – January 2018 (Catholic Schools Week 2018)

**Moment Three:** Families of Love – Lent 2018

**Moment Four:** Families of Joy – April/May 2018

Catholic Schools Week 2018 (Moment Two) is the high point of the catechetical programme for primary and post-primary schools. During Catholic Schools Week 2018 we invite each of our Catholic school families to participate in a week of celebration and reflection on the theme **Catholic Schools: Families of Faith**. To assist Catholic schools with their celebration and reflection, the Catholic Schools Week Steering Committee has made a series of resources available, each with its own unique daily theme:

**Monday:** Our Family at Home (Junior Cycle Lesson Plan)

**Tuesday:** Our School Family (Junior Cycle Lesson Plan)

**Wednesday:** Intergenerational Education (Senior Cycle Lesson Plan)

**Thursday:** Our Parish Family (Junior Cycle Lesson Plan)

**Friday:** Our World Family (Senior Cycle Lesson Plan)

In addition to the resources outlined above, the following resources are also available: [1] Board of Management and Staff Reflection, [2] Thought of the Day resource, [3] Liturgy of the Word (adaptable for celebration of the Eucharist), and [4] School Assembly resource. By participating in Catholic Schools Week 2018, it is hoped that each of our Catholic school families will come to recognise and appreciate in a more meaningful way that they are the fertile soil from which the fruits of faith grow. As families of faith, our Catholic school families are best understood as local entities with universal consequence.

- All resources will also be made available through the medium of Irish
- School resources will be made available in due course via: [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie)

The resources for Catholic Schools Week 2018 have been developed by Karen O'Donovan, Breda O'Brien, Margaret Farrell, Paula McKeown and Sharon Haughey, and coordinated/developed by David Kennedy.



## Thoughts for the Day Catholic Schools Week 2018

### Monday: Our Family at Home

Our family at home is the first school of faith and love. It is where we learn about Jesus. From a young age, our parents introduce us to the language and symbols of prayer and teach us how to live as good Christians. The family brings the Good News to life. The life of a Christian family is a vital part of the life of the Church. And yet, family life can be difficult. We face challenges in our families every day; however, the family is where we learn how to deal with these challenges. The care, mercy, patience and love we show to our family members are all founded on the teachings and example of Jesus. Our family at home bears witness to the Good News. Our Christian family life teaches us good habits. It is the place where we learn faith, prayer and to serve our neighbours.

### Tuesday: Our School Family

While our parents are our primary educators, the Catholic school supports their work. Our school community is part of our wider family. A Catholic school is founded on the gospel values, therefore, a Catholic school is the lived experience of the Good News. Our family at home is where we are first socialised, where we first learn to listen and share, and where we are taught how to be patient and show respect. This work is continued in our school family. We experience forgiveness, mercy, love, care for the needy, patience, tolerance and justice on a daily basis in our schools. Our school family is an extension of our family at home.





## Wednesday: Intergenerational Education

We live in a world where great importance is placed on things that are new. No sooner do we have the latest phone than it becomes obsolete and the next model is released. However, in society, we are missing out if we do not see the value of our older generations. Within our families, our grandparents and elderly relatives play an important role in sharing the Good News. Our grandparents and elderly relatives strengthen the role of our parents as primary educators. After all, they raised our parents in the faith, taught them how to pray and showed them how to serve others. The experience of our grandparents enriches our understanding of a Christian family. They have shown and experienced care for others, mercy, justice, kindness, patience and love. The wisdom that our older generations bring to our families is so rich and deep that it cannot be compared to any other earthly family experience. They have lived the Good News for longer and they have been challenged by the Good News for longer. They have a lot to teach us.

## Thursday: Our Parish Family

The Irish bishops have stated that 'the parish community is the focal point of faith development in all its forms' (*Share the Good News*, 130). It is another family to which we belong. Faith formation is one of the most important parts of the mission of a parish. Our parish is the place we are welcomed in Baptism, nurtured through the celebration of the sacraments, most especially through the celebration of the Eucharist, and guided on our final journey. Our parish family is there for us at very important times in our lives – our rites of passage. They continuously support us in the understanding of our faith and encourage us to live out our faith – especially during the difficult times. Our parish helps us to develop good habits by being an example in care for others, especially those in need.

## Friday: Our World Family

If we see the world as our family, we become brothers and sisters to all. This view of the world causes us to think, which prompts us to react. Jesus taught through words and actions. We too need to respond to world events not simply through words, but also with actions. Our family at home has taught us good habits and has given us experiences in care for others, mercy, justice, kindness, patience and love. Our school and parish families have supported these values. As part of the world family, it is up to us to demonstrate all these good habits. We are called into action. If I see the people of the world as my brothers and sisters, how will this affect how I treat them? Of course, this view of the world is not without its challenges. It can be difficult to treat others as brothers and sisters when they do not show us love and respect; however, we must find comfort and strength in the words of St Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians when he says, 'Love endures all things.' The love that enables us to reach out to others as our brothers and sisters is the love of God. It is, indeed, Good News. In treating others as our brothers and sisters, we are sharing the Good News.





# Liturgy for Catholic Schools Week 2018

(Adaptable as the Liturgy of the Word)

*The space can be set up very simply, using candles and an image of the Holy Family.*

**Entrance Song:** A Joy for All the Earth  
(Official Hymn for the World Meeting of Families, 2018)

**Penitential Rite:**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace. **Lord have mercy.**

**All:** Lord have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary. **Christ have mercy.**

**All:** Christ have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father. **Lord have mercy.**

**All:** Lord have mercy.

*(You may consider singing the 'Lord Have Mercy' each time. See Sing the Mass, 'Mass of St Columba' by Columba McCann)*

**First Reading:**

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (3:2–6; 12–14)

**Psalm:** O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Ps 127:1–5)

**Second Reading:**

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians (3:12–21)

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.  
Alleluia.

**Gospel Reading:**

A reading from the holy Gospel of Matthew (2:13–15; 19–23)

**Prayers of Intercession:**

(Source: *The Roman Missal*)

1. That the Christian family may be an example of faith, hope and love to all its members, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord hear our prayer.*

2. For peace in our world, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord hear our prayer.*
3. For those who work in public office, that they may support us in treating others as our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord hear our prayer.*
4. For those who are sick in mind, body or spirit, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord hear our prayer.*
5. For those who have died. In a special way remember our family members that are no longer with us. *(Pause)*  
*Lord hear our prayer.*
6. For our families. That we may imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that after the difficulties of this world, we may share in their company forever, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord hear our prayer.*

*Prayer service could end here, followed by a suitable piece of music.*

**Recommendation:** Eucharistic Prayer II

**Music Suggestions:**

1. *A Joy for All the Earth* – Official Hymn of the World Meeting of Families 2018 (Ephrem Feeley)
2. *May Your Love Be Upon Us* (Bernard Sexton)
3. *Heart of Our Love* (Columba McCann)
4. *Gathered in the Love of Christ* (Marty Haugen)
5. *May God Bless and Keep You* (David Haas)
6. *I Have Loved You* (Michael Joncas)
7. *There Is No Greater Love* (Michael Joncas)
8. *Set Your Hearts on the Higher Gifts* (Stephen C. Warner)
9. *Where There is Love* (David Haas)
10. *May God Bless You* (George Van Grieken)
11. *Lord, You Are My Shepherd* (Ephrem Feeley)

**Acclamations:** Sing the Mass Collection