



Moment Four: Families of Joy

April/May 2018

Introduction

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 Four: Families of Joy looks forward to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018, focusing on its theme, The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World, and how we can engage fully with this special occasion.

For Parishes

This moment can be situated within the parish preparations for the World Meeting of Families including the catechetical programme, *Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!* Further information at: www.amoris.ie





The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland

Level 1

Christian Faith

Mystery of the Church

- God is in every home and family (GDC 133)
- The Catholic Church as the family of God (CCC 747, 759, 777–8, 959, 1655, 2233)
- The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (CCC 2179; CSRE 2a)
- The church is a special place where God's people gather to pray
- Our family helps us become friends of Jesus

Christian Morality

Human Dignity

- Jesus helps me to do the right thing
- I can love, share, express thanks, and care for myself and for others (CCC 224)

Level 2

Christian Faith

Mystery of the 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)
- 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 880–2; 936–7)

Christian Morality

RSE in a Christian Context

- My family is a gift from God
- Jesus' love is present when our parents/guardians love each other and love us

Level 3

Christian Faith

Mystery of the Church/Kingdom

- The Church is the people of God made one by Jesus, a community which shares his love and life (CCC 804; 781–6)
- The Church is a liturgical assembly and it is a community of believers (CCC 752)
- The Church shows people what God is like and brings God's loving care to all (CCC 780: Church as sacrament of salvation; GS 3: Church as servant)
- The Church is the community which continues Jesus' mission to proclaim the Good News to the whole world (LG 8, LG 17; AG 1; CCC 3, 849: mission; Mk 16:15)
- The Pope represents Jesus in leading the Church on earth, in succession to St Peter, the leader of the apostles (LG 18; CCC 880–2, 936–7)
- The family/Catholic school builds up the Kingdom of God by participating in the life and mission of the Church (GS 48; FC 49, 17–18)
- Every person has his/her own role in the Church (domestic and local) (LG 12)
- Every Christian is called to spread the Good News (LG 17: vocation)
- Living as a friend of God/disciple of Jesus requires the support of the Church family

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Level 4

Christian Faith

Mystery of the Church/Kingdom

- The Church is the Body of Christ. The head of this Body is Christ and all the members share his Spirit (LG 7; CCC 787–95: Church as mystery and sacrament)
- The Church is called to show all people the love, compassion and forgiveness of Jesus (GS 21; CCC 780, 831: Church as sacrament of salvation; RM 20: Church at the service of the Kingdom; GS 3)
- The successors of the apostles are the Pope and the other bishops of the Church. From Christ they receive the power to act in his person (DV 7–8, CD 2; LG 18; CCC 861–2, 935)
- Jesus gave leadership of the Church to the successors of the twelve apostles: the Pope and the bishops (LG 8; CCC 77, 551–3, 765)
- The bishops continue the ministry of the apostles in caring for the churches (CCC 857, 1594). The Catholic Church in Ireland today (e.g. Catholic institutions and groups in Ireland – schools, hospitals, Trócaire, The Society of Missionary Children)



Junior Lesson

Junior Infants–Second Class (P1–P4)

Teacher's Notes

Moment Four: Families of Joy focuses on how we as followers of Jesus are called to be families and people of joy. We are called to be joyful and share that joy with those around us.

Our joy can be shared through the good news of Jesus' love for us and all families. It's not enough to be filled with joy and keep it to ourselves. God made us for community. He wants us to share his love with others. We have a special opportunity to share our joy and celebrate the joy of family with the world when Dublin hosts the World Meeting of Families in August 2018. Families will gather in Dublin 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.

For further information see: www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en

Consider

In order to explore the feeling of joy, begin the lesson by reading the story 'The Lost Coin' to the pupils.

The Lost Coin

There was a woman who had ten silver coins. She was a poor woman, and those ten silver coins were very important and precious to her. One day, she decided to take those coins out of their special place. She just wanted to look at them and enjoy them for a moment; then she was going to put them back. She picked up each coin, one by one, looked at it, then turned it over to look at the other side. The coins were so pretty and shiny! She really enjoyed looking at her coins, and she was feeling so fortunate to have them, but she knew she needed to put them back in their special place and get back to her work for the day.

The woman counted her coins one last time, as she was putting them away: Six ... Seven ... Eight ... Nine ... Oh, no! There are only nine! Maybe I have counted them wrong, she thought to herself. So she put them all in her hand and counted them again: Six ... Seven ... Eight ... Nine ...

'Oh, NO! There really are only nine! There are supposed to be ten,' she exclaimed loudly. 'Now what am I going to do?' Frantically, the woman searched her whole house. She looked on the floor, under the table where she had been counting the coins, but it was not there. She looked in her pockets just in case it had fallen off the table and into her pocket, but she could not find the coin. She got her broom and started sweeping every nook and cranny, but still did not find the lost coin.

Finally, the woman lit a candle so she would have more light. She got down on her knees on the floor and searched every inch of her small house and was ready to give up in despair when suddenly the light from the candle caused her to notice a slight gleam near the table leg. She hurried to the spot and put the candle down low so she could see better. There, glistening in the light, was the shiny silver coin.

The woman was so excited and full of joy about finding her lost coin that she went out to get her family and friends and invited them to her house for a big party. All her family and friends were just as happy as she was about finding the missing coin. They had a long, joyous celebration.





Questions:

- How many coins did the woman have?
- How many coins did the woman lose?
- How did the woman feel when she found her lost coin?
- Can you think of a time you felt joyful?

Explore

In the story 'The Lost Coin', the woman was full of joy when she found the coin that had gone missing. She celebrated with her family and her friends.

Our families are places where we can celebrate and share joy.

With the pupils, explore times of joy in our families. For example:

- Having dinner together
- Playing a game together
- Going on a trip/holiday together
- On special occasions like birthdays and Christmas

This summer there will be a special celebration of families and the joy in families here in Ireland.

This is called the World Meeting of Families. All families are invited to join this celebration of family and God's love for families. Families from all over the world will come to Ireland to meet each other and sing songs, play games and have lots of fun while celebrating God's love.



Activity

- Colour the picture of the woman from the story 'The Lost Coin' on the Junior Activity Page and write about her joy when she found the coin.
- Using the Junior Activity Page, create a family invitation to the World Meeting of Families in August 2018. For more information on this special festival to include on your invitation see: www.worldmeeting2018.ie

Moment Four: Families of Joy

Junior Activity Page



The woman felt joy when she found her lost coin.
She shared her joy with her family and friends!



Moment Four: Families of Joy

Junior Activity Page

INVITATION



DUBLIN, IRELAND

WORLD
MEETING of
FAMILIES

21-26 AUGUST 2018

Dear Family,

From,





Senior Lesson (Third Class–Sixth Class) (P5–P7)

Teacher's Notes

Moment Four: Families of Joy focuses on how we as followers of Jesus are called to be families and people of joy. We are called to be joyful and share that joy with those around us.

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For further information see: www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en

Consider

Explain to the pupils that Ireland was chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21–26 August 2018. The World Meeting of Families, held every three years, is the major event that brings families from across the world together to celebrate, pray and reflect on the importance of families in our lives and in the life of the Church.

Explore the World Meeting of Families website with pupils on your projector/IWB to find out more.

Watch the introductory video on the World Meeting of Families at: www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/About/About-WMOF2018

Explore

Explore the World Meeting of Families logo with the pupils. Explain that brands and events often have logos to make them easy to identify. These logos are visual representations and tell us about a product or event without using words.

Ask the pupils if they can think of any famous logos or give pupils a number of examples and allow them to guess what products/events the logos stand for.

Google



 Microsoft



Coca-Cola



amazon

Use the Senior Activity Page to explore the meaning of the logo for the World Meeting of Families 2018.

Activity

Ask each child to use the Senior Activity Page to create a family invitation to the World Meeting of Families in August 2018. Include some information they have discovered on the World Meeting of Families 2018 website or a particular activity/event that they feel their family would be interested in.

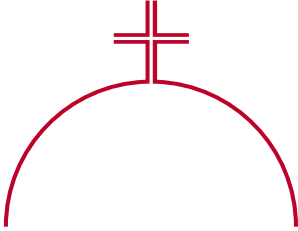
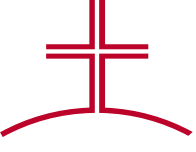
For more information on this special festival to include on your invitation see: www.WMOF2018.ie



Moment Four: Families of Joy

Senior Activity Page

The logo for the World Meeting of Families 2018 is made up of five different parts, each with its own meaning.

	 <p>At the heart of the logo is a family. Every family is different but they love and care for each other always.</p>
 <p>Behind the family is a map of the world because families from all over the world will be coming to Ireland for this big celebration. While we only see a section of the continents, they represent the whole world.</p>	 <p>The red semicircle with the cross on the top is part of the logo of the Archdiocese of Dublin. It represents God's love for all the families of the world.</p>
 <p>The cross is the symbol of the Christian Church. The cross in the logo also represents the Papal Cross, which stands in the Phoenix Park in Dublin, where in 1979, over one million Catholics gathered to welcome Saint John Paul II.</p>	 <p>The three-part Celtic swirl reminds us of the Trinity. The Trinity is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit united as one family: one God and three divine persons.</p>



Moment Four: Families of Joy

Senior Activity Page

INVITATION



DUBLIN, IRELAND

WORLD
MEETING of
FAMILIES

21-26 AUGUST 2018

Dear Family,

From,





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Prayer Service

This prayer service could be held in a classroom, school hall or a prayer room. Members of the local parish community could be invited, including the parish priest or school chaplain. Parents and grandparents could also be invited.

Prayer Space

- Green table cloth
- Candle
- Holy water
- Bible
- Family picture or drawing of a family by a pupil
- Picture of Pope Francis



Leader: Good morning, everyone. Today we are gathered to pray for joy. We pray for joy in our families and joy in our lives. We look forward to the joyful gathering of families from all over the world this summer in Ireland. Families will come together to share their joy and celebrate the love that God has for every family.

We begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song: 'Gathering Song', *Grow in Love*, Second Class/P4, p. 88.

Leader: God our Father, we thank you for the gift of our families. We thank you for the joy and happiness they bring to our lives, for the care and love they give us. Help us to share that joy and love with those around us always. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reader 1: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (A Song of Joy)

I want to tell the whole wide world, 'God has been good to me!'

I want to tell the whole wide world, 'God is wonderful!'

I want to sing and shout because I am so happy,

For God has come to me and he is great!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Leader: God our Father, you want us to be joyful and to share that joy with those around us. We pray that you will make us a source of your joy wherever we go.

Reader 2: Give joy to us, and to all our families. Help us to know that you are always with us.
Lord, hear us.

Reader 3: Give joy to us, and all our friends. Help them to know you are always near.
Lord, hear us.

Reader 4: Give joy to all who work in our school and community. Help them to know you are beside them.
Lord, hear us.

Reader 5: Give joy to those who feel alone. May they know they are never really alone as they are always part of your family.
Lord, hear us.

Reader 6: Give joy to those who are sad or unhappy because someone they love has died. Help them to know that you care for them.
Lord, hear us.

Leader: We know that Jesus prayed constantly to his father in heaven. He asked us to pray to God the Father too. And so, as Jesus asked us we say:

Our Father .../Ár nAthair ...

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the joy in our lives and the joy of families. We belong to several families: families at home, in school, in our parish and the world family. Help us to be a source of joy and gladness in every family of which we are a part. When we share our joy, we share your love and care with those around us. May our joy be endless just like your love for us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reader 7: Official 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.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Closing Song: 'A Joy for All the World', Official Hymn of the World Meeting of Families 2018.