



## Moment Four: Families of Joy

### 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.