



Catholic Schools Week 2018

Catholic Schools: Called to Be a Family of Families



DUBLIN, IRELAND
**WORLD
MEETING
of
FAMILIES**

21-26 AUGUST 2018

Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families

Assembly Resources

Assemblies are important times in the life of our school as they allow the school to gather together, to share information, to celebrate and to pray.

As we prepare for the World Meeting of Families, we reflect that we are called to be a family of families. These assemblies encourage us to think of the school family – the teachers, pupils and parents, the support staff, the grandparents and childminders, school governors and the wider family of parishioners, nursery schools, therapists and counsellors who come into our schools and help our children.

Those tasked with preparing assemblies should consider the following in their preparations:

- Take time to prepare the assemblies in advance, creating sacred spaces made up of the children's own artwork and prayers.
- Consider hosting the assembly in the parish church, allowing the children to experience a liturgy in the church.
- Invite people to participate in the celebration with you – canteen staff, school governor, bus driver, parish pastoral council members, childminders. This allows children to see and appreciate the wider family of the school.





Moment One: Families of Hope

Open your heart to faith and God will do the rest

Checklist

For the Sacred Space

- Prayer Wall (Post-its)
- Paschal (large) Candle
- Bible
- Hope, Faith, Love and Joy Candles
- Lighter for candle
- Tapers to light four candles

People

- Prayer Leader
- Five pupils to carry the Bible and the Hope, Faith, Love and Joy Candles
- Four people to say prayers and light candles
- Minister of the Word
- Five children to read Prayers of Intercession
- Accompanist for music/choir leader

Prayer Space – Prayer Wall

Invite each member of the school community to write a prayer of hope for their family on a Post-it. Create a prayer wall based on the theme of World Meeting of Families, 'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World'.

Pupils may include drawings of their families to frame the prayer wall. For example, use the art activity from *Grow in Love*, Junior Infants/P1, p. 30.



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

Opening Song:

'The Church', *Grow in Love*, Senior Infants/P2, p. 266.

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 family to celebrate family life and to pray for all those we love. The family is where we experience love and care, where we belong, where we learn to share and treat others with respect. Our families come in all shapes and sizes. The most important part of being family is the love and care we give to one another. God our Father loves us through the people we call family.

Today we share our hopes and dreams for our own families and the future of families throughout the world.

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: 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 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:

Leader: Jesus said, 'If you are about to come before God to pray, and then remember that you have quarrelled with someone, first go away, settle your argument and make your peace with them' (Mt 5:23–6).

If we have hurt anyone by our words or action. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

If we have ignored someone and made him or her feel unloved. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

If we have been unforgiving and filled with anger. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah (31:3–4; 29:11–13)

The Lord has this to say to you today. I have loved you with an everlasting love and I am constant in my affection for you. I will build you up and I will protect you in good times and in bad. I have plans in my heart for you: plans for peace not disaster; plans to give you a future and a reason to hope. And remember, when you call upon me and come to pray to me I will hear you. You will seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession:

Leader: With love in our hearts, let us unite as one family to ask God for all our needs.

1. We pray for Pope Francis and all those in our Church, schools and homes who teach us about God. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.



2. We pray for the Church, the family of God.
May we help one another to grow in love. We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
3. We pray for our families. May our homes be places of faith, hope, love and joy. We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
4. We pray for the World Meeting of Families that it will be a time of celebration and a beacon of hope for families around the world. We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
5. Lord, we pray for all the people who are special to us who have died. We know that they have gone home to you. Bless them and bless us until we are all together again. We pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

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:

Leader: Lord, we thank you for our families. Help us always to treasure and appreciate what we have so generously been given.
Help us always to hope in you.
As we grow together in Your love.
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Together let us say the prayer to the Guardian Angel.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, My Guardian Dear
to whom God's love commits me here.
Ever this day be at my side
to light and guard and rule and guide.
Amen.

Song:

'They Care for Me', *Grow in Love*, Junior Infant/
P1, p. 48.