



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:

Céad Mile Failte Romhat

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.

Jesus told us a lot of things about love but the most important thing he said was: **Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all of your mind, and with all your strength and love other people as you love yourself** (*Grow in Love*, Junior Infants/P1, p. 147).

Let us begin with our morning prayer remembering how much God the Father loves us and wants us to love him and to love others.

Morning Prayer:

Father in heaven, you love me,
you are with me night and day.
I want to love you always in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you, Father, bless me through the day.
Amen.



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.

Opening Prayer:

World Meeting of Families Official Prayer

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.

Reflection:

'Love One Another', *Grow in Love*, First Class/P3, p. 259.

Prayer of Intercession:

As a response to the intercession prayers you could sing 'Grow in Love' after each prayer.

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 love and friendship in the Church and among all her people as we devote our lives to bringing God's kingdom into the world. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. We pray for love in our homes and families as we grow together in respect and understanding. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. We pray for greater love to be shown towards the poor, the homeless and those who are outcasts. May no one be beyond the reach of God's grace or his message of love and forgiveness. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. We pray for the love between our parents and the unconditional love they have for each one of us. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. We pray for all those in our families who are suffering bereavement or illness at this time. 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: 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.

Closing Hymn:

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