



# Catholic Schools Week 2018

Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families



## 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

This moment is rooted in our belief in the promise that Jesus made when he said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die' (Jn 11:25–6). Our hope as Christians is that death is not the end but that at the end of our time here on earth we will be reunited eternally with Jesus in heaven. We are reminded of this hope in a document Pope Francis wrote to highlight the teachings of the Church. This document, entitled *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*), teaches us about love in the family. Hope is an essential part to this love.

#### Resources:

- Relevant content from the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*
- Junior Lesson (Junior Infants–Second Class/P1–P4)
- Senior Lesson (Third Class–Sixth Class/P5–P7)
- Prayer Service of Remembrance

**Additional resources:** To highlight the journey through this programme in your school/parish, this pack contains a poster which can be displayed in a school/class prayer space or a common area in your school/parish.

### Moment Two Families of Faith (Catholic Schools Week 2018)

Catholic Schools Week 2018 will run in the same format as previous years but with one important distinction. In 2018, Catholic Schools Week will be the high point of the primary and post-primary school catechetical programme, Moment Two: Families of Faith.

As in previous years, material will be in daily themes, containing resources for all class groupings: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2; First and Second Class/Primary 3 and 4; Third and Fourth Class/Primary 5 and 6; and Fifth and Sixth Class/Primary 7.

#### The daily themes are:

**Monday:** Our Family at Home

**Tuesday:** Our School Family

**Wednesday:** Grandparents:  
A Special Part of Our Family

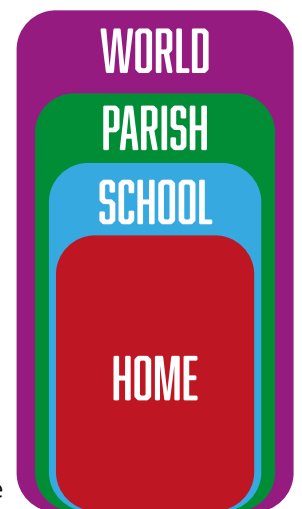
**Thursday:** Our Parish Family

**Friday:** Our World Family

Each day's lesson begins with a reflective quote from *Amoris Laetitia* to put our learning into context with the message of Pope Francis. The relevant strands and strand units of the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland* are also listed.

On Wednesday we celebrate Grandparents' Day. On that day we offer some suggestions for class activities.

A prayer service, for use in the school or classroom is also available, as well as suggestions for parish celebrations for Sunday, 28 January.



## Moment Three

# Families of Love

### Lent 2018



This moment is based upon our belief in the promise that Jesus made when he said, 'Love one another as I have loved you' (Jn 13:34).

Jesus knew that relationships are the most valuable things that we possess, but at times they can be difficult to maintain. Our love for our family gives us a glimpse of Jesus' love for us. He loved us so much that he eventually died for us so that we could all be reunited as one family in heaven. Jesus asked us to love our families, friends and even people that we have never met as much as he loved us. During Lent especially we are called to love the stranger, to love them and their community as much as we love our own closest family and friends.

In *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*, Pope Francis says that 'each of us, by our love and care, leaves a mark on the life of others' (322). Let us try and make a mark of love on the life of others this Lent.

#### Trócaire School Resources for Lent 2018

Level	Strand	Strand Unit	Aim
Preschool	Christian Morality	Human Dignity	God loves each one of us
Level 1	Christian Faith	Mystery of Jesus Christ	Jesus loves us
Level 2	Word of God	Jesus' Public Life	Love Commandment (Jn 13:34–5)
Level 3	Word of God	Sacred Scripture	God's loving plan of salvation
Level 4	Christian Morality	Human Dignity	God has willed that all people should constitute one family and treat one another as brothers and sisters

## Moment Four

# Families of Joy

### April/May 2018

The final moment of our programme is rooted in Pope Francis himself, his pontificate and his writings, including *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*, as well as looking forward to the World Meeting of Families 2018. Families provide safe spaces where joy and love can be nurtured and celebrated, and where we can grow in love for the Lord and one another.

#### Resources:

- Relevant content from the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*
- Junior Lesson (Junior Infants–Second Class/P1–P4)
- Senior Lesson (Third Class–Sixth Class/P5–P7)
- Prayer Service of Joy



The primary resources for Catholic Schools Week 2018 have been developed by Hazel O'Connor, Breda Holmes and John-Paul Sheridan