



THE GOSPEL
OF THE FAMILY
Joy for the World



www.worldmeeting2018.ie

Diocese of Derry 'World Meeting of Families in Parishes' 'Family Fun Day' Resource Pack



For almost everybody, their experience of Church is local. That is where they come in contact with a community and where they encounter God, especially in times of prayer.

Building community is not easy – and many people can feel excluded from Church.

This initiative in the year of the World Meeting of Families is designed to do three things:

1. To engage active parishioners in working together on this pastoral outreach to all families who live in the area;
2. To celebrate the possibility of community in our often stressful and lonely world
3. To help families of all sorts feel included in a Church context and to create good memories on which to build.

I welcome this initiative and encourage all parish communities to engage with the idea.

Bishop Donal McKeown
+ Bishop of Derry

Dear Parishes/Pastoral Council Members

The World Meeting of Families is approaching fast. As a church we look forward and are excited about the prospect of this important event in the life of the Irish and global church. While many of us will travel to Dublin in August for the main event there are those who will be unable to do so. This however, does not exclude parishioners from being able to participate and feel part of our wider Church family.

With this in mind the Derry Diocesan Youth Commission have produced a 'World Meeting of Families in Parishes' resource pack for use by parishes to celebrate this event. This will allow parishes to come together as a parish family and experience the theme of the World Meeting of Families "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World".

The pack includes:

- Children's Liturgy Resources
- Art and Craft Activities
- Prayers of the Faithful for a WMOF Liturgy
- And much more

For those activities that may require extra resources, we have also provided links to make it even easier to locate these resources.

We hope that this will allow parishes to celebrate this important church event in a very simple yet profound way and further deepen our faith in Jesus Christ.

Members of the Derry Diocesan Youth Commission and Derry Youth Community will be happy to meet with and discuss these activities and their organisation with parishes.

Sincerely

Sean Mullan

Chairperson

Derry Diocesan Youth Commission

'World Meeting of Families' Family Fun Day in Parishes

Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018, guided by the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church. To help each parish prepare for this major event we suggest holding a parish family fun day that either begins or ends with one of your weekend Masses. **The activities below can be used as they are, adapted or even as a starting point for your parish event depending on resources available. Be as creative as you like!**

Date: At parish's discretion, within the month of June

Suggested activities in preparation for the event:

- **Parish Family Collage**

Parishioners will be asked to participate in a piece of Artwork for the parish. In advance of the event, draw or paint a tree trunk on the card or canvas using brown paint and use hand templates with names written on them as leaves. Alternatively use paint and thumbprints or handprints.

White card A2

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Antique-Cartridge-300gsm-Sheets-BCreative/dp/B071RNCPJ9/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1524143218&sr=8-3&keywords=A2+card+white

White canvas A2

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Loxley-Ashgate-Chunky-Stretched-Artists/dp/B00GA35HC2/ref=sr_1_1?s=kitchen&ie=UTF8&qid=1524143320&sr=1-1&keywords=A2+white+canvas

Paint

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Crayola-Pack-Washable-Ready-Paint/dp/B000ET4544/ref=pd_sbs_201_4?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=SR8W8XTCZQMV69QJW2JG

Hand template (*See back of booklet for printable copy*)

<http://outlineresearchpaper.com/5-blank-hand-template/>

- **Prayer wall**

Parish can use an existing notice board to create a prayer wall. For this you can use blank cards, post it notes or print off and photocopy the template provided using pins. This can also take place on the day of the event. (See back of booklet for printable template)

Suggested activities for the Celebration of the Eucharist:

- **A number of families to welcome parishioners with Mass leaflets**

Ask a number of families that represent the variety and richness of family living to welcome parishioners with mass leaflets at the start of the Mass.

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**

Prayers of the faithful, Eucharistic ministers all family orientated. Contact these people in advance and provide with the attached readings. (See back of booklet)

- **Children's Liturgy as part of the Eucharist**

Children are invited to leave the main area of the Church before the beginning of the First Reading and will be taken to a separate area until the Offertory. During this time the children will hear the Gospel in a way in which they will understand and complete an activity. (See back of booklet for printable copy of format and activity)

Suggested activities for after Mass:

- **Family tea, breakfast or picnic - directly after Mass or in the afternoon**

This could be as simple or as elaborate as you like. The parish could provide the catering, employ outside catering/ice-cream van etc. or families could be encouraged to contribute cakes, sandwiches, cupcakes to a tea, breakfast or picnic held in the parish hall or local school.

- **World Meeting of Families Bunting Activity**

Families create bunting before or on day of the event. Families will be invited to decorate the following template using a variety of images that make their family unique and filled with memories that they share. These can be joined together with string twine or tape and displayed in the church or parish centre leading up to the World Meeting of Families.

Twine

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01G1H4XD0/ref=s9_acsd_top_hd_bw_bDbBqJ_c_x_2_w?pf_rd_m=A3P5ROKL5A1OLE&pf_rd_s=merchandise-search-3&pf_rd_r=VPYZSFGMP92JV08GWXBV&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=79e2fc1c-a9b9-5573-8ac9-5cbd1cff13c9&pf_rd_i=200956031

Triangle template (See back of booklet for printable copy)

<https://4vector.com/free-vectors/triangle>

- **Parish walk with refreshments afterwards**

The Diocese of Derry and the surrounding area is full of religious places and sites of interest and beauty. The idea of a mini pilgrimage or walk within the parish comes from the hope that families would become more familiar with their parish and use the walk to share stories with family members along the way. By partaking in a mini pilgrimage or parish walk the people would come to know the history of their faith locally and appreciate the significance of these sights in the faith journey of those who came before them sharing this with family members of other generations. If there are multiple churches in the parish then create a route to walk as a group and return to mother church or parish hall for tea, coffee and cake.

Prayers of the Faithful

For Pope Francis, that our Heavenly Father may gift him with deep wisdom and familial love as he calls the Church to reverence marriage and the family.

Lord hear us

For bishop Donal: that they may courageously lead the Church to promote and strengthen marriage and the family within a secular culture that has become confused.

Lord hear us

For all family members: that through their love and generosity with each other, they may foster vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and lay ecclesial ministry.

Lord hear us

We pray for our parents, families and our friends. May God continue to bless, protect and guide us to increase our knowledge of God, so that we may grow in love for God and live out that love in our daily lives.

Lord hear us

We pray for peace throughout the world, especially for those areas that are in the mist of war. May the Peace of God reign in our hearts and in our families and unite us in His love.

Lord hear us

For children: that in the footsteps of Christ, we may treat them with love, kindness, and respect for their innocence.

Lord hear us

World Meeting of Families 'Family Fun Day' Children's Liturgy Format

Introduction

Every year the Jews celebrated the Feast of the Passover, and remembered how God had saved them from slavery in Egypt. When Jesus was twelve years old Mary and Joseph took him with them to Jerusalem.

Sign of the Cross

Light the Candles

Light the candles and say the following prayer:

*Show me, show me little candle
Just how much a little light,
Shining out with warmth and brightness,
Chases off the darkest night. Amen.*

Sorry

Let us think about our own families. Read the following questions slowly, pausing for thought between each.

- Do we show everyone in our family how much we love them by our words and actions?
- Do we sometimes take them for granted, without realising how lucky we are to feel loved and cared for?
- Do we always treat our brothers and sisters thoughtfully?
- Are we obedient and good for our parents?

As brothers and sisters in the one family of God we know that our heavenly Father loves us and is always ready to forgive and forget the mistakes we make when we say sorry.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

To welcome today's Gospel say together:

Alleluia, alleluia,

Lord Jesus open our ears and minds so that we hear and understand your word.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, he made the journey with them. After the feast, Mary and Joseph set off for home. But that evening, they realised that Jesus was missing, and at once they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After searching for three days, they finally found Jesus in the Temple. He sat listening and asking questions of the Jewish teachers who were filled with admiration for this child. Mary and Joseph were overcome when they saw him and said, "Son, we have been so worried for three days! Why have you done this to us?"

But Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not realise that I would be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand why his answer meant. The family returned to Nazareth, and Mary kept all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in height and wisdom, and was loved by God and all who knew him.

Discussion

Have you ever been lost before? – What happened? How did you feel? How did your parents feel? How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they lost Jesus in Jerusalem?

Often people travelled in separate groups and they thought that Jesus was in the other group. When they realised Jesus was missing they set off at once to look for him, filled with a feeling of panic and concern.

Did they find Jesus straight away? – They spent three long days searching before they found him. Where did Mary and Joseph eventually find Jesus and what was he doing? – They found him in the Temple, sitting with the elders and the teachers, discussing the scriptures. Mary and Joseph were delighted and relieved to have found Jesus safe and well. They had been so worried, but Jesus did not appear to be at all troubled by everything that had taken place.

What did Jesus say when his parents told him of their deep concern? – Jesus had not felt ‘lost’ because he was perfectly at home in the Temple. To him it was an obvious place to be, in his heavenly Father’s house. Mary and Joseph did not understand the special relationship that Jesus had with his heavenly Father. But under their guidance, and with their love and help, Jesus prepared for his mission of bringing the Good News to the world.

Activity

Colour the image of The Holy Family on the sheet provided and draw a picture of your own family, writing each of their names at the top. (*Activity sheet attached in separate word document*)

Creed

Closing Prayer

We thank you, Lord,
For our families and each other.
Please bless them and help them
To be loving and forgiving,
And always be there for us
In times of trouble or need.
Amen.

Taken from The Complete Children’s Liturgy Book, Katie Thompson

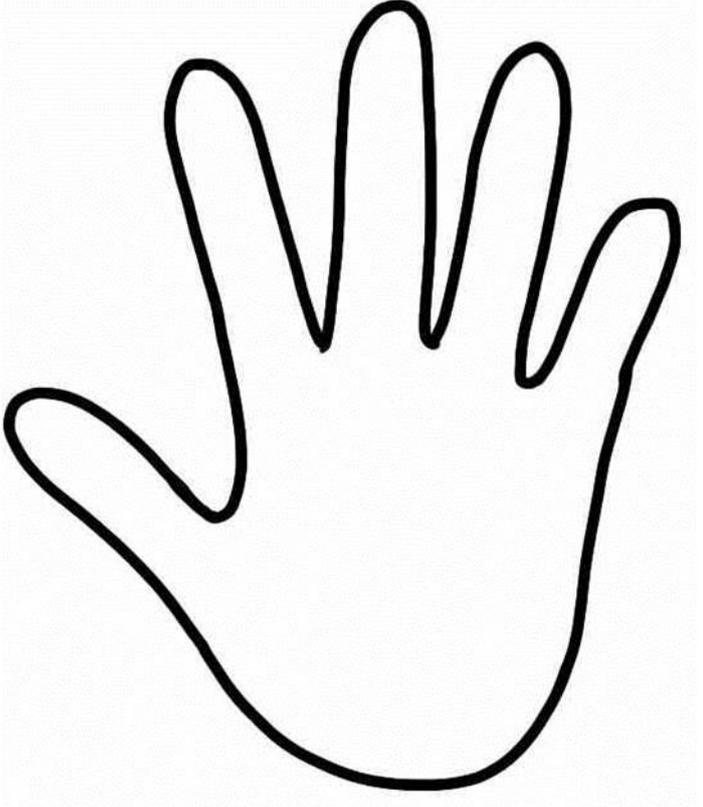
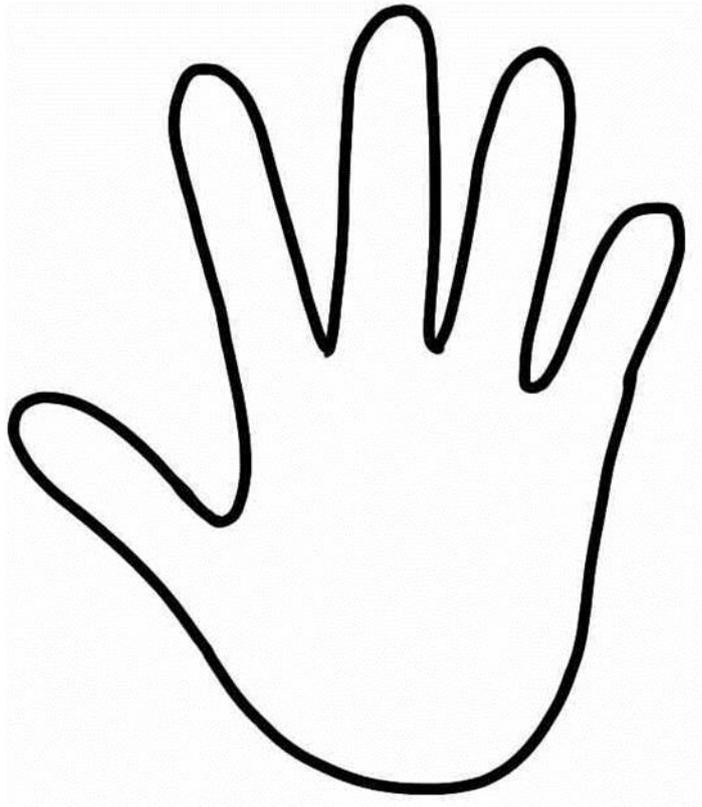
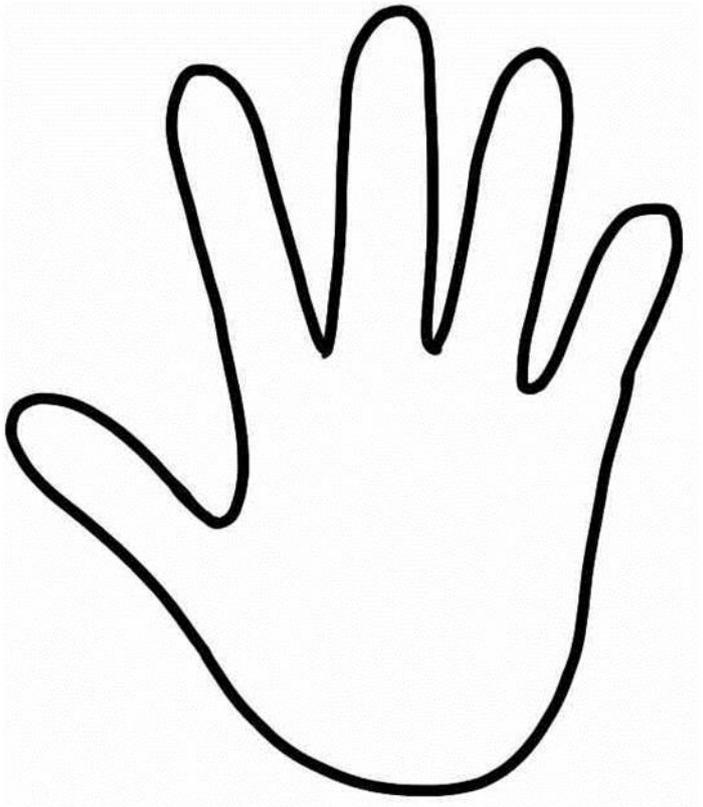
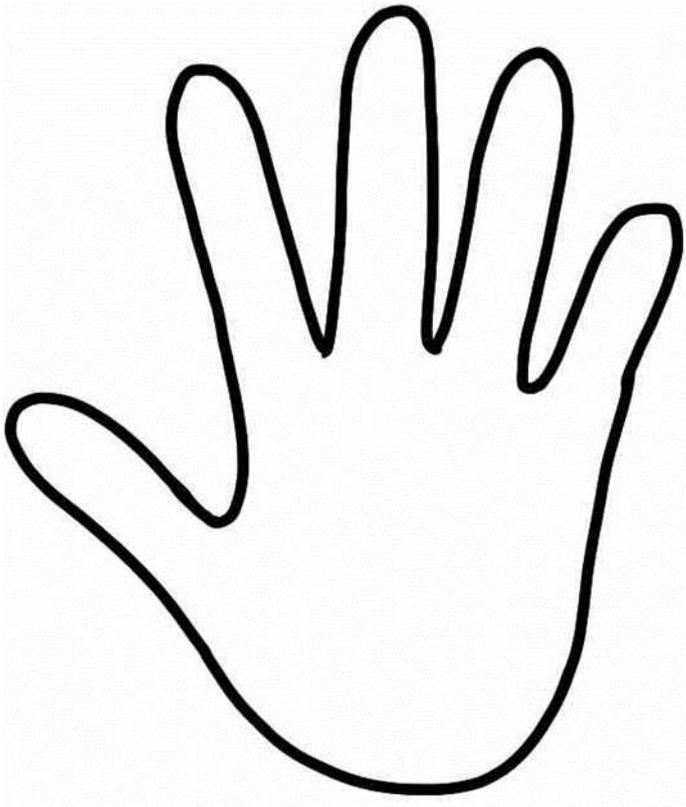
THE HOLY FAMILY

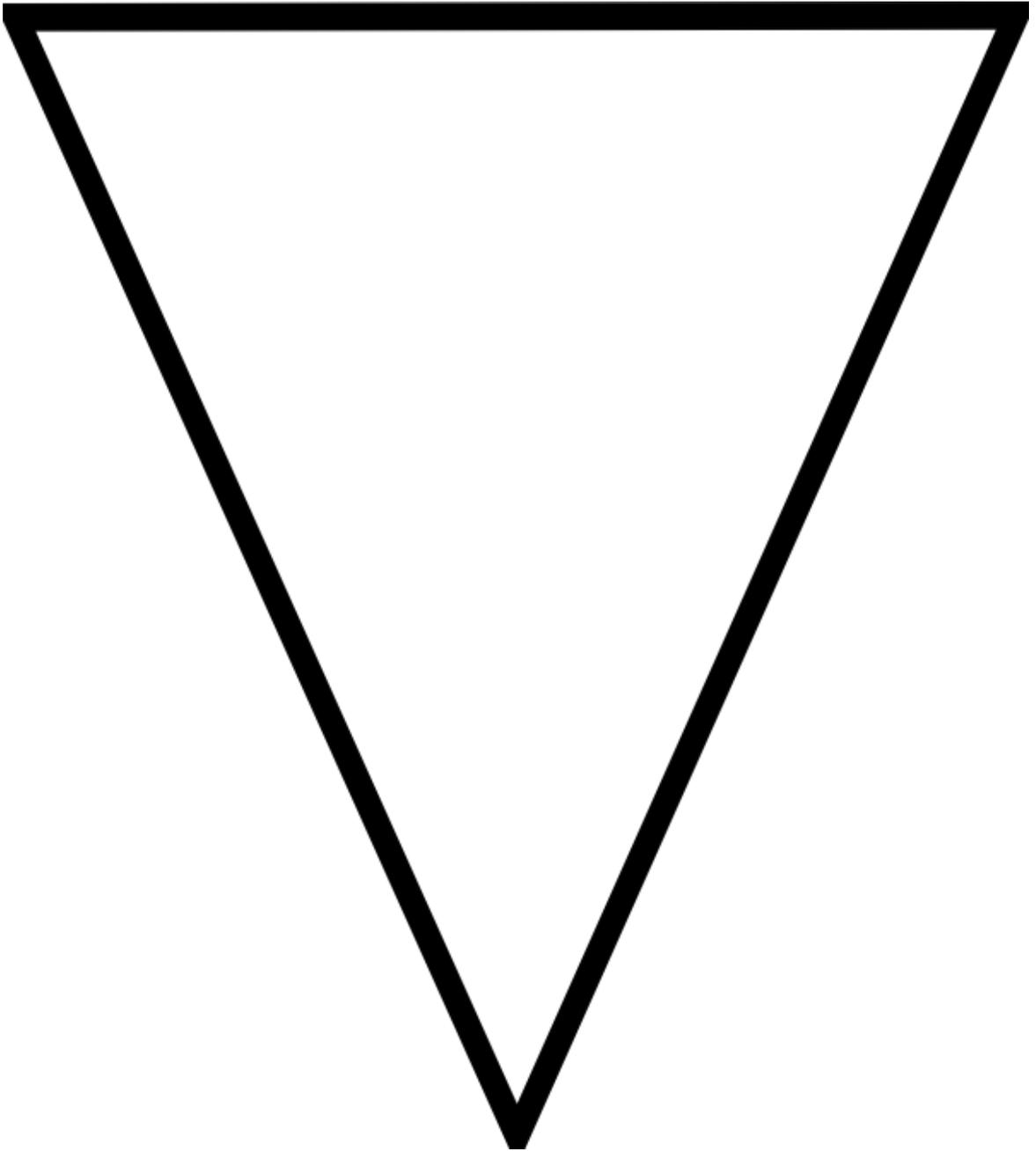
Jesus + Mary + Joseph



MY FAMILY







prayer requests

_____ name

_____ date



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phillipians 4

prayer requests

_____ name

_____ date



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phillipians 4