

RESOURCES FOR PRAYING WITH THE WMF2018 ICON:

Possible Hymns:

A Joy for all the earth (E. Feeley)

[World Meeting of Families 2018 Anthem]

Love is patient, and love is kind.
Love is not resentful; it is not rude.
Love is not arrogant, nor boastful, nor jealous,
but love rejoices, rejoices in the truth

**All: The joy of love, a joy for all God's family,
The joy of love, transcending time and space.
Our love for each other mirrors God the Father's love,
The joy of love, a joy for all the earth.**

Here in God's family all find their home.
All can find salvation, troubled souls find peace
Here is found tenderness, compassion and justice.
Here God reaches down to us and touches us with grace.

Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace (S. Temple)

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Lord of All Hopefulness (Jan Struther)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no care would destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Ubi Caritas (Taizé) Where love and charity are, there is God.

Ubi caritas

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Ubi caritas'. It is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a tempo marking of ♩ = 72. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a piano (p) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'U-bi ca-ri-tas et a - mor, u-bi ca-ri-tas De-us i - bi est.' The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets and slurs.

SCRIPTURE

On the Angels:

Exodus chapter 23:20-21:

“I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.

Be attentive to him and listen to his voice... for my name is in him.”

The HOLY FAMILY - the CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

Luke's Gospel 2:39-51 [New Revised Standard Version]

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why

have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

MARK 5: 21-24, 35-43. THE HEALING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

Some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

JOHN 2:1-11 THE WEDDING AT CANA

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Or: From the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

**Christ Jesus came to be our brother and to make us one family.
With trust in God's unchanging love towards us we pray:**

Response: *O Lord give us your love.*

[or sung response: *O Lord hear us we pray, O Lord give us your love.*]

We pray for Spouses, for those who are widowed, for those who are separated.
R/ O Lord give us your love.

We pray for parents and children, for those who long to be parents, for those who have lost a child. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

We pray for our Grandparents, for foster parents, for adoptive parents, for our Godparents. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

(Irish) Guimís ar son dóibh siúd atá ag ullmhú don phósadh.

Ar son dóibh siúd le deacrachtaí sa saol pósta acu.

Ar son na clainne atá ag streachailt le hairgead. *R/*

OR: We pray for those preparing for marriage, for those whose marriage is in difficulty, for families that struggle financially. R/ O Lord give us your love.

We pray for single parents, for those who are carers of other family members, for our extended families. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

We pray for children with special needs, for adult children living with their parents, for single people. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

We pray for families who have someone they love who is are ill, for those who care for the sick, for those who suffer with them because they love them. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

We pray for those who are living apart from their family; for those who have emigrated abroad, for those forced to flee their homeland in search of safety. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

We pray for the bereaved; for our family members who have gone before us into the life of eternity marked with the sign of faith. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

We pray that the Lord may your blessings upon our gathering this day as we prepare for the World Meeting of Families 2018. *R/ O Lord give us your love.*

We gather all these intentions of our hearts, those that have been placed in the petition box before the icon, we remember all those we love and all those we find difficult to love and we lift them up to:

Our Father... Or: Á nAthair...

A Reflection:

Spirit of the living God, help me to be positive in everything I do
In everything I say, in everything I think and feel and imagine.

Where there is beauty, let me sing
Where there is goodness, let me praise
Where there is wisdom, let me listen
Where there is courage, let me affirm
Where there is wonder, let me be in awe.

Where there is loneliness, may I be present
Where there is suffering, may I weep
Where there is wrong, may I speak out
Where there is possibility, may I respond.

All praise to you, O God of infinite beauty and goodness
All praise to you, O God of infinite wisdom and wonder
All praise to you, O God.

Your boundless compassion for us in Christ Jesus
Has made this life such a positive, hope-filled experience.
May we live each day with your spirit of grace and generosity.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was...

Concluding Prayer: Adapted from THE PRAYER OF BLESSING OF THE
ICON FOR THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

Lord our God, you created us in your own image and likeness.
You redeemed us from sin through Christ Jesus your Son, lover of the human race.
Taking upon himself the form of a servant and becoming one with us in our flesh
he makes all creation new in the image of your original blessedness.
Here we contemplate this icon in honour and remembrance
of Jesus your Beloved Son, our Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God and our mother, St Joseph her husband,
and the Archangels Michael and Gabriel.
May this icon draw us to the Holy Family who invite us to their table.
May it help us contemplate your saving Gospel
and see in the Wedding feast of Cana and the Raising of Jairus' daughter
your look of infinite compassion upon all the concerns of marriage and family life.
May those who pray before this icon
find the comfort of your grace and your help in their every need.
We ask this through the bounteous love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.

Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.

A Dhia, ár n-Athair, in Íosa do Mhac is bráithre agus siúracha sinn,
Teaghlach amháin, i Spioraid do ghrá.

Beannaigh sinn le haoibhneas an ghrá.

Déan foighneach agus cinealta sinn, séimh agus fial.

Bímis fáilteach dóibh siúd ar an ngannchuid.

I maithiúnas agus i síocháin go mairimid.

Tabhair aire dos na teaghlaigh uilig le do chúram geanúil,
go háirithe iad siúd a bhfuilimid ag guigh orthu anois:

(Cuimhnímís ar bhaill dár dteaghlaigh agus ar dhaoine eile in a n-ainm).

Méadaigh ár gcreideamh, neartaigh ár ndóchas,

Coinnigh slán sinn i do ghrá, bímis i gcónaí buíoch as ár gcomhbeatha.

Iarraimíd é seo, trí Chríost ár dTiarna. **Amen**

A Mhuire, máthair agus treóraí, guigh orainn.

A Naomh Íosaf, athair agus cosantóir, guigh orainn.

A Naomh Joachim agus a naomh Áine, guígí orainn.

A Naomh Louis agus a naomh Zélie Martin, guígí orainn.

Prayer

God of love

You risked your life through the womb of a teenager,
And shared the nurture of your Son with a village carpenter.

You understand families, communities, relationships –
Mixes all of beauty and brokenness.

Bless all those who raise children

And care for the vulnerable

And through your grace

Gather them into the life of your kingdom,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(CTBI WPCU 2018 Resources)

THE STATION MASS

Background History

During the severe Penal Laws in Ireland - in particular during the 18th century - public ceremonies involving Catholic clergy were banned. Many Catholic churches were either destroyed or passed on for use by other Christian denominations during the period following the Battle of the Boyne (1690).

Nonetheless, Irish Catholics remained faithful to the celebration of the Mass and two new traditions emerged: the Mass rock and the Station Mass. Catholics gathered in the open countryside at a designed spot marked by a rock to celebrate Mass. The alternative venue for Mass was in people's homes. Word was put about locally that Mass would be said in a particular house on a particular day. Neighbours would gather for what was often the only opportunity to be at Mass for a long time. Because it was not safe for the priest to carry sacred vessels or vestments with him on his journeys, these were taken care of by the local people. They passed the "Mass kit" from house to house as it was needed. This Mass became known as the "station Mass" because of the random movement from place to place.

Following the repeal of the Penal Laws and the passing of Catholic Emancipation (1829), Catholics were free to worship publicly and take their place in civil society. However, the spread of church buildings with adequate accommodation was slow and the tradition of the Station Mass continued. Even when each community built its own church building, the Station tradition was kept alive.

The two-part focus of having the celebration of Mass in one's home and an occasion for hospitality to your neighbours combined two key strands of the lived Catholic faith in Ireland. Until the 1970s, the Station Mass was always held in the morning and was followed by 'breakfast' for the priest and neighbours. The Station was sometimes preceded by weeks of preparation including painting, wall-papering, cleaning and shopping!

Today

In the past, some country parishes had a rota of parishioners who hosted the Stations and each family knew when their turn was up and coming. Today, people on a particular street or estate might simply volunteer to host the Station by contacting their local priest. The Stations are almost always celebrated in the evening now at a time agreed between the host household and the clergy. Then it can be announced locally. Apart from the table to be used as an altar, all the principal necessities for Mass are provided by the priest. The household usually provides:

- a table cloth, two candles, a crucifix, holy water, a small jug of tap water

Often, the presiding priest will invite members of the family or the local community to participate in the liturgy by reading, singing or leading prayers.

After Mass

The pattern of what happens after the Mass varied a lot from parish to parish and from house to house. In some places, each household contributes food which is shared. Some parishes have established a norm that tea and scones or sandwiches are prepared and served. In some places, a more elaborate fare is prepared and neighbours spend the night in a social atmosphere.

Hospitality

In a changing Ireland, the Station Mass can be a real and meaningful opportunity for the local Catholic community to extend a welcome to new neighbours. In some parishes, the host family makes a special effort to personally contact each neighbour to invite them to their house for the Station Mass and hospitality. But just because you may not be asked that personally doesn't mean you are not welcome! Everyone is welcome at the table of the Lord.

1 SAMUEL 25:

'PEACE BE TO YOU, AND PEACE BE TO YOUR HOUSE, AND PEACE BE TO ALL THAT YOU HAVE.'

POSSIBLE SCRIPTURE READING (see also page 4 above for *Colossians 3:12-21*)

A reading from the book of Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,
Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-9 *The mission of the seventy*

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Beannú Tí

Go mBeannaí Dia an teach seo óna bhun go dtí a bharr,
go mbeannaí sé gach fardoras, gach cloch is gach clár,
go mbeannaí sé an teaghlach, an bord ar a leagtar bia,
go mbeannaí sé gach seomra I gcomhair sámh chodladh na hoíche.

go mbeannaí sé an doras a osclóimid go fial
don stráinséir is don bhoctan chomh maith is dár ngaol,

go mbeannaí sé na fuineeoga a ligeann dúinn an léas
ó sholas geal na gréine, na gealaí is na réalt,

Go mbeannaí sé na frathacha in airde os ár gcionn

Is fós gach balla daingean atá inár dtimpeallú inniu.

Go bhfana síocháin dá réir sin don ár gcomharsan, cion is grá.

Go mbeannaí Dia an mhuirear seo agam agus a choimead ó bhaol.

Is go stiúra sé sinn uile go dtí a ribhrú féin. Amen.

[May God bless this house from top to bottom,
 May He bless each lintel, each stone and beam of wood,
 May He bless the household and the table on which we place food
 May He bless each bed room in which we seek a peaceful sleep,
 May He bless the door we open generously to the stranger and the meek
 - as well as to our relatives and friends.
 May He bless the windows through which come
 the bright beams, of sunlight, moon and stars.
 May He bless the rafters above our head and each strong wall surrounding us,
 May peace love and affection dwell herein and flow towards our neighbours.
 May God bless this gathering and keep us from danger,
 And May He guide us all together to his Heavenly sanctuary. Amen.]

*(Traditional Irish Collected by An t-Ath Diarmuid Ó Laoghaire SJ
 translated by Pádraigín Clancy)*

May God give blessing	To this house and all who come here.
May Jesus give blessing	To this house and all who come here.
May Spirit give blessing	To this house and all who come here.
May all who come here give blessing	To this house and to all they meet here.
Both roof and frame	Both brick and beam.
Both window and timber	Both foot and head.
Both gate and door	Both coming and going.
Both man and woman	Both parent and child.
Both young and old	Both wisdom and youth.
Both guest and host	Both stranger and friend.
Peace on each window that lets in light	Peace on each corner of the room.
Peace on each place that ushers sleep	Peace on each plate that cradles food.
Peace of the Father, Peace of the Son	Peace of the Spirit, Peace of the One.

(Prayer form the Iona Community, published in *Human Rites: Worship Resources for an Age of Change*
 compiled by Hannah Ward and Jennifer Wild, London: Mowbray, 1995, p.76-77)

POPE BENEDICT XVI'S PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
 Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them!
 They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society.
 Support them! As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong
 pillars of Gospel faith, guardian of noble domestic ideals, living treasuries of sound
 religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on
 to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.
 Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and roles of grandparents.
 May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love.
 Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give
 them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care,
 accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families
 may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for
 the great embrace of life without end. Amen!

Gospel: Simeon and Anna Luke 2: 21 (22)- 38 (40)

THE BLESSING OF BAPTIZED CHILDREN (*Adapted from the Book of Blessings*)

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16 Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them
Matthew 18:1-5,10 Whoever welcomes a child in my name welcomes me.

Use one of the Eucharistic Prayers for Children

Intercessions: Lord Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, you made childhood holy;
grant that these children (this child) may grow as you did in wisdom, age, and grace.
For this we pray:

Through their (his/her) parents and the Church you show these children (this child) the
tenderness of your own love; grant that those entrusted with their (his/her) care will be
tireless in watching over them (him/her). (For this we pray:)

In baptism you have given us all rebirth and adoption into your Divine Family, you
have opened to us the doors to your Father's house; grant that we may truly live as your
sisters and brothers. (For this we pray:)

Assisting minister: Even as a child you had to undergo persecution and exile; grant that
all children who are victims of the evil of our times may find help and protection.
(For this we pray:) R.

OR:

Lord Jesus, you welcomed and blessed little children; listen kindly to our prayer.

R. Lord, hear us.

Protect us from all dangers. R.

Watch over our life and our upbringing. R.

May we grow in wisdom, age, and grace in the eyes of God and of our neighbours. R.

Help all of today's children. R.

Let us thank you for your gifts to us. R.

Bless our parents, friends, and all who are kind to us. R.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Lord, our God, look with great kindness on these children (this child) whom the family
of the Church commends to your tender care. Your Son, born of the Virgin Mary, gladly
welcomed little children. He took them in his arms, blessed them, and held them up as
an example for all. We pray that you, Father, will also send your blessing on them
(him/her), that they (he/she) may grow to the fullness of all the beauty they can become
in your eyes and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's witnesses (witness) in
the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

*After the prayer of blessing, the minister may sprinkle the children (child) with holy water and,
as circumstances suggest, may say: Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ,
who has redeemed us by his death and resurrection.*

CONCLUDING RITE

May the Lord Jesus, who loved children, bless you and keep you in his love,
now and for ever. **R. Amen.**

*OR: A lay minister concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross
and saying: May the Lord Jesus, who loved children, bless us and keep us in his love,
now and for ever. R. Amen.*