



# St. Teresa's Church

## WMOF18 Newsletter

### February 2018



#### The World Meeting of Families Comes to Ireland!

##### Dear Parishioners,

Dublin, Ireland has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families in August 2018. Started by Saint John Paul II, and held every three years, this major world event celebrates family as the cornerstone of our lives, and the fundamental building blocks of our society and the Church. Families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin from 21<sup>st</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on different challenges they face and to grow in faith. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for WMOF2018 is the Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World. The WMOF2018 logo, launched in December 2016, reflects on this theme and our journey towards August 2018.

With kind regards,

St. Teresa's Parish Team

#### Volunteers Wanted

If you would like to **volunteer** to assist in the running of the WMOF events in August 2018 you can register on

[www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

There are over 5000

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

#### *Programme for World Meeting of Families 2018*

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August:** Opening Ceremonies in all diocese across Ireland and in the RDS

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> August:** Three-day Congress, held in the RDS. An exciting series of major panels, workshops, keynote speakers, testimonies and activities, each day of the Pastoral Congress will explore themes from *The Joy of Love*. There will also be dedicated youth and children's programmes available for the three days.

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> August:** Festival of Families in Croke Park, Dublin. This is a celebration of family life around the world that will feature musical and dance performances, as well as five selected families from around the world giving witness to their family's faith. The Festival of Families is a **free ticketed event**. Every person in attendance will require a ticket to access the venue. Tickets will be limited subject to venue capacity and availability.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August:** Final Mass and Eucharistic Celebration. Venue to be confirmed. This event is a **free ticketed event** but every person in attendance will require a ticket to access the venue. Tickets will be limited subject to venue capacity and availability.

#### Petition Box

*At the National launch of the preparations for the World Meeting of Families, each diocese was presented with a prayer petition box which will remain in that diocese for the remainder of the year. As the Icon of the Holy Family visits different parishes throughout Ireland it will be accompanied by the petition box of that Diocese for the duration of its stay.*



*All the contemplative communities around the country have agreed to take a share of these petitions throughout the year and to pray for each individual petition received. In June next year all the petitions will be collected from the contemplative communities and they will be brought to the final Mass for WMOF 2018.*

*In St. Teresa's we will create our own petition box which will be placed in our church and regularly emptied. These petitions will be brought to one of the contemplative orders by Sam our pastoral assistant to have our prayers joined with others preparing for WMOF 2018.*



#### Time to Act!



To book your tickets to attend WMOF 2018 you should make enquiries now. You can register to **attend** the WMOF events at [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

# A m r i s

*Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!*

## Trócaire Romero Family Award

Trócaire is calling upon all parishes in Ireland to take on the Romero Awards as part of their preparation for WMOF. Inspired by Blessed Oscar Romero and his concern for the poor and oppressed, the Romero award aims to provide you and your family with an avenue to learn about the lives of other families around the world where Trócaire works. You will learn about their daily lives, the issues that they face and share in their hopes and dreams for the future. Each participating family will receive a certificate and a solidarity gift from a country where Trócaire works. They will also be invited to an awards ceremony that coincides with the celebrations at the World Meeting of Families gathering in Dublin next August 2018, as well as being entered into a draw to win an eco-friendly 'Green Family trip' to the Slieve Aughty Centre, Co. Galway.

### How to Register:

- Step 1: Contact Sam in the Parish office to register for a family journal and information pack or Email [romeroaward@trocaire.org](mailto:romeroaward@trocaire.org) to register your interest
- Step 2: Receive your 'Family Journal' from Sam or via post from Trócaire.
- Step 3: Submit your family workbook to Sam or via post to Trócaire, Church Team, Trócaire, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
- Step 4: Receive a certificate and solidarity gift for your family.

**The Closing date for entries is Thursday 31st May 2018 (Feast of Corpus Christi)**

### *Celebrating the Joy of Love on St. Valentine's Day*

#### *Thinking outside the chocolate box!*

*In the Joy of Love Pope Francis says that Valentine's day is an opportunity for couples to celebrate the depth and beauty of romantic love in a way that goes beyond commercial interests. What gift will you bring to your loved one this Valentine's Day? How about a gift of your time and attention?*

*In 'The Joy of Love, a letter from Pope Francis to the world', he emphasises the fundamental importance of time together and personal communication as foundations for a love that lasts. So instead of buying a gift for each other, couples could commit to time together – a meal, a walk, a remembrance of how they met, and so on.*

***Given that St. Valentine's day falls this year on Ash Wednesday this is a good year to think outside the chocolate box!***

*A gift created by WMOF is a non-commercial gift token which can be given to a loved one that focuses on quality time together. Each token entitles the recipient to one of a number of gifts including:*

- ♥ *A hand in hand walk together*
- ♥ *A special meal cooked for them*
- ♥ *A journey down memory lane*
- ♥ *A technology free evening together*
- ♥ *Set aside time to pray together*
- ♥ *A family outing*

*There will be a number of tokens available in our Church or You can download the tokens at [www.amoris.ie](http://www.amoris.ie)*

### Official Family Prayer for WMOF 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 for those whom we now pray

***(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 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 Zéile Martin, Pray for us.

### Icon of the Holy Family

A specially commissioned WMOF2018 Icon of the Holy Family was unveiled and anointed on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017, during the launch of the one year programme of preparation at the National Novena in Knock, Co Mayo. The Icon was written by the Redemptoristine Contemplative Community in Drumcondra, Dublin as part of their ongoing prayer for families. The Icon is meant to encourage both reflection and prayer as part of the journey of preparations to World Meeting of Families. There is a beautiful image of the Icon of the Holy Family available in our Church with an explanation of all of the various elements and meanings behind the images. Why not take the time to visit the Icon and reflect on the images, symbols, messages and meanings found throughout.

