



St. Teresa's Church

WMOF18 Newsletter

March 2018



March is the Month of St. Patrick

St Patrick's Day is a hugely popular celebration that has at its roots the deeper religious truth explored in *The Joy of Love*. There is an opportunity, in the midst of the festivities of the day, to focus on and promote the truth that the family is a living icon of the Trinity. Another symbol of the Trinity which is synonymous to Ireland is the image of the shamrock. This symbol of the Trinity is promoted this month through the distribution of window stickers and car bumper stickers which are available in our WMOF prayer space in the Church.

World Meeting of Families 2018

GOD IS FAMILY
SO ARE WE



www.worldmeeting2018.ie

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Icon of the Holy Family

A specially commissioned WMOF2018 Icon of the Holy Family was unveiled and anointed on the 21st 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. When an Icon is created it is said that you write an icon, you do not paint it, because an icon wants to speak to you. Each Thursday during Lent, Father Alois Greiler will offer a meditation on different elements of the Icon for reflection. Also as part of our own preparation for WMOF each month We will include one element of Fr. Alois' reflection on the Icon. This month we focus on the doors of the closed Icon. ***The Archangels: Open the door for Christ!*** When the icon is closed, it is like a door to a home. May be it is the house that you live in. May be the church you belong too. A door is full of meaning. Our icon presents two archangels at the door. Michael who is like God and Gabriel the Messenger of God. The angels direct us towards the door of the house of the Holy Family. The message comes from the words of Pope John Paul II: ***Have courage! Open the door for Christ! Allow Christ to be part of your family, your community, your way of life.***

As we prepare for WMOF 2018 let us be aware of the importance of our doors. An open door is a welcome for people. Let us also open our door for Christ. Similarly when we are leaving our house through the door let us remember to bless ourselves with Holy water and say "God's Angels guide us".



Join us on St. Patrick's Day in Saint Teresa's Mass at 10am with the Donore 35th Dublin Scouts were fresh shamrock will be distributed.



HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY

www.worldmeeting2018.ie



One Hundred Thousand Acts of Kindness as a Gift to Pope Francis from Children Making their Confirmation in 2018

Pope Francis talking to young people always encourages them to be brave, to go out in to the world aware of their own gifts and talents and to seek to make a difference. The children preparing for Confirmation in St. Teresa's have been discussing ways that they can carry out Acts of Kindness towards others as a sign of them being 'Witnesses to their faith'. The categories which they can carry out these acts are by:

- ♥ **Showing Gratitude and Joy**
- ♥ **Reconciling myself with others**
- ♥ **Using my gifts and talents to help others**
- ♥ **Making good choices**
- ♥ **Caring for the earth, our common home**

When the children have carried out this act they will inform Sam who will submit it through the Amoris website and that act will join with the thousands of others to create a graph for Pope Francis to receive when he comes. If families would like to carry out acts of kindness at home you can submit it through www.amoris.ie/confirmation and fill in a small form asking what was done, why it was done and how it made you feel afterwards. It is a great incentive to promote kindness during this Lenten period.

The Amoris Cube for First Communion

In Pope Francis' letter called **The Joy of Love** he invites us to practice the skills of love – saying thank you, well done, sorry; inviting family members to share stories from their lives, especially older members; reaching out to care for someone who is hurting or to forgive someone who has hurt us. The World Meeting of Families team has made a visual and fun way to apply these skills into family life by introducing the '**Amoris Cube**' which is inspired by the Focolare 'Family Cube'.



The six messages of the Amoris Cube:

- ♥ **Thank you!**
- ♥ **I'm sorry...**
- ♥ **'Spend some time with...'**
- ♥ **Let's pray for...**
- ♥ **How can I help?**
- ♥ **Be the first to love!**

This is an activity for families to enjoy together. The six sides of this foam cube display simple messages from the Joy of Love. Whatever message comes up when it has been rolled the family will put into practice for that day. Cubes can be purchased through www.amoris.ie or by ordering with Sam our Pastoral Assistant.

Programme for World Meeting of Families 2018

Tuesday 21st August: Opening Ceremonies in all diocese across Ireland and in the RDS.

Wed 22nd – Fri 24th August: Three-day Congress, held in the RDS. An exciting series of major panels, workshops, keynote speakers, testimonies and activities.

Fri 25th 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.

Sunday 26th 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.

Just to clarify that St. Teresa's Parish will not be in a position to book tickets for any of the events for World Meeting of Families 2018. Priority for tickets to the opening ceremony and closing Mass is given to those who book for the three day conference on the WMOF website. Parishes are therefore unable to guarantee any tickets for these events being allocated to them. Sam, our Pastoral Assistant, will assist anyone who needs to book tickets online for any of the events.

St. Teresa's, however, will be showing a live screening in our Church of the opening ceremony and closing Mass for people who cannot travel to the venue. Further details to be announced closer to the time.



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.