



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

*“The family, which is founded and given life by love,
is a community of persons.”
(Familiaris Consortio 18) St Pope John Paul II.*



Rome @Home

At past meetings most families stayed at home with the meeting perceived as being something remote, at most followed on television, and unknown to the majority of families. This time WMF will have a special format with an opportunity provided by providence to create a worldwide event that can involve all families that would like to feel part of the ecclesial community.

Under the title **'Rome at Home'** we will be developing ways to celebrate the gift of family life.

In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, Pope Francis speaks about **the importance of parish life**. He refers to St Pope John Paul II's description of a parish as "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters" (*Christifideles Laici*, 26). We are encouraged and strengthened through our community, while we are formed by the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis highlights that **a parish is called to be the presence of the Church in a community**, providing a place where people can hear God's word, grow in discipleship, and extend themselves in love to the poor and needy, bringing families together — a place where we can pray, worship, and celebrate together (*Amoris Laetitia* 87,88).



In a 2005 address, Pope Benedict XVI described the parish as an extended family that “brings together brothers and sisters who have no desire for power or selfish interests, but who live in the joy of the charity of God, who is love.” It is when we come together at Mass, as a community in Christ, that **we see the great variety of families who make up our extended parish family.**

It is a special joy when we see young families taking part in the Mass and engaged in the life of the parish. When babies are crying, or fidgety children are making a noise; these are all signs that the Church is young and alive; a community of young families, mature families, extended families, young and old together.

The World Meeting of Families will offer a great opportunity to remember those families who have fallen away during the pandemic for whatever reason, reflecting on the recent synodal questions: “Are we aware of those at the edge of our community?” and “Are we welcoming?”

What better way to celebrate the joy of family life, than to embrace the opportunity that is this year’s World Meeting of Families, inviting everyone back home to Mother Church to celebrate just as the Father does with the return of the Prodigal Son.



The ways to get involved during the WMOF (22nd – 26th June)

- 1 Share the prayer card with family and friends. Encourage them to list all those (past and present) they will hold in prayer on the back of the card, place it on the mantelpiece or fridge so it is always visible
- 2 Publish the prayer in your newsletter, and share on all your social media platforms using #rome@home
- 3 Have a petition box on the sanctuary throughout the week (label provided) and invite all to submit petitions
- 4 Plan to host a parish picnic to celebrate the joy of family life that coincides with the closing of WMOF and stream the Angelus on the Sunday and listen to the message from Pope Francis
- 5 Use the catechetical resources www.romefamily2022.com to devise ways of developing family ministry in your parish

For further information contact Lianne Pap, Marriage and Family Life Coordinator: lianne.pap@caob.org.uk

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Amoris Laetitia – A Pastoral Approach

As a way of exploring the Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia, a series of 10 videos, with accompanying guides has been produced as part of the preparation for the tenth World Meeting of Families that the global Church is invited to participate in and celebrate together from June 22nd-26th 2022.

The collection of videos journey through each chapter of the document and is hoped they can provide a framework and begin conversations in all areas of family ministry. Pope Francis encourages us to rediscover the value and beauty of marriage and family life in the Church and in society.

We are invited to make known the pastoral richness of Amoris Laetitia:

It is not enough, in fact, for pastors and pastoral workers to give it “a hasty general reading”: rather, it is desirable that, together with families, they patiently delve into one part after another, seeking in it what they will need in each concrete circumstance. (AL 7)

Each video comes with a printable guide that can be used by parishes, groups and families as part of any



ongoing formation as well as reflection and prayer in the family.

As we continue on our synodal journey let us remember meeting families where they are at, listening to them, and walking alongside them is a foundation to build on and enable all to participate and contribute to the life of the Church.

Video 1 – Walking Together

<https://youtu.be/ug7VC5iCydQ>

Video 2 – The Family in the light of the Word of God

<https://youtu.be/PJ-fS7cWUhA>

Video 3 – The Vocation of the family

<https://youtu.be/kFxj9pmdo5o>

Video 4 – Love in marriage

<https://youtu.be/4S2uQPUV6Bs>

Video 5 – The foreverness and beauty of love

https://youtu.be/hlCtB6e0_El

Video 6 – Fruitful love

<https://youtu.be/cW3Dwns8qf4>

Video 7 – Called to an ecclesial mission

https://youtu.be/RKjHdg_o9-g



Video 8 – Educating children: A call, a challenge, a joy
<https://youtu.be/ZcWJmf67bds>

Video 9 – Accompanying weakness
<https://youtu.be/j7BY2OTL5hs>

Video 10 – The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family
<https://youtu.be/mciTEsMiXt4>

As we continue on our synodal journey let us remember meeting families where they are at, listening to them, and walking alongside them is a foundation to build on and enable all to participate and contribute to the life of the Church.





Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the great gift of the family and every individual within the family.
May they rediscover each day the grace they have received,
and as small domestic Churches,
may they know how to witness to your Presence and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.
Sustain them and make them aware of the path to holiness upon which You call them, so that they might experience your infinite Mercy and find new ways to grow in love.
Lord, grant that each family might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church as a call to become missionary disciples, in the service of life and peace,

Amen



Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness



Heavenly Father,
We come before You to praise You
and to thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for all families
consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.
May they rediscover each day the grace they have received,
and as small domestic Churches,
may they know how to witness to your Presence
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering
caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know.
Sustain them and make them aware
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,
so that they might experience your infinite Mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for children and young people:
may they encounter You and respond joyfully
to the vocation You have in mind for them;
We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware
that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them;
for the experience of fraternity that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to become missionary disciples, in the service of life and peace,
in communion with our priests,
religious, and all vocations in the Church.

Bless the World Meeting of Families.
Amen.

Official prayer for the X World Meeting of Families
22-26 June 2022



Rome @Home

A cluster of stylized human figures in blue, red, and orange, representing a diverse family including a person in a wheelchair, a child, and a woman with arms raised.

A prayer for our family

