

## An Introduction to the Theme of World Meeting of Families 2018

The theme for each World Meeting of Families is chosen by the Pope. In choosing The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World, as the theme for the ninth World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on a theme that was central to the Synodal process that led to his post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation **Amoris Laetitia**: On Love in the Family.

'The Church and The Gospel of the Family' was a key theme in the Preparatory Document for the III Extraordinary Assembly of Bishops in October 2014, a document that was the subject of unprecedented consultation among the faithful of the Church across the world. While the preparatory document does not give a specific definition of the term, 'The Gospel of the Family', it does convey at least three senses in which this relatively new phrase in the Church's tradition can be understood:

- The family, founded on the marriage of a man and woman, is part of God's plan from the beginning. The 'Good News' of the family is therefore an indispensable part of the joyful message of the Gospel that the Church proclaims.
- The family is the principal agent of evangelisation of its own members. As the first school of faith and love, the Christian family is often where we ourselves first come to know Jesus and his love.
- The family proclaims the Gospel to the World. The Christian family, by its witness to the life and love of Jesus, is a principal agent of evangelisation to the world.
- As Pope Francis explains in the opening words of **Amoris Laetitia** "the Christian proclamation on the family is good news indeed" (AL,1). The Christian proclamation of the family is an indispensable part of the 'Good News' of the Gospel. God's plan for the family, revealed in Sacred Scripture from the beginning, is joy for the world!

The World Meeting of Families 2018 will explore each of these dimensions of theme the Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World and what it means for families and the Church today.

## Pastoral Congress Programme

In his [Letter of Convocation](#) for World Meeting of Families 2018, Pope Francis asked that the event and its preparation would give families the opportunity 'to have a way of deepening their reflection and their sharing of the content of the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)*'.

The programme of the three-day Pastoral Congress for WMOF2018, from 22nd to 24th August, takes up this call. The Congress will offer a daily programme of workshops, discussions as well as fun and prayerful activities for individuals and families, including a tailored [programme for children](#) (5-12 yrs) and [young people](#) (13-17 yrs). The highlight of each day will be the celebration of the Eucharist in the main arena. Fun activities for all the family will run throughout the day in the Conference venue, except during the celebration of Mass in the Main Arena.

**Each day of the Pastoral Congress will explore themes from *The Joy of Love*.**

### Wednesday 22 August

Theme: **The Family and Faith.**

Themes from Chapters 1 to 3 of *The Joy of Love*

#### Main celebrant & Homilist

H.E. Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, India.

#### Main Arena Keynote Speaker

H.E. Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, United States of America

[Access Wednesday Programme Details](#)

## **Thursday 23 August**

Theme: **The Family and Love.**

Themes from Chapters 4 to 6 of *The Joy of Love*.

### **Main celebrant & Homilist**

H.E. Cardinal João Braz de Aviz,

Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

### **Main Arena Keynote Speaker**

H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, England.

[Thursday Programme Details](#)

## **Friday 24 August**

Theme: **The Family and Hope.**

Themes from Chapters 7 to 9 of *The Joy of Love*.

### **Main celebrant & Homilist**

H.E. Cardinal Kevin Farrell

Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

### **Main Arena Keynote Speaker**

H.E. Cardinal Mario Zenari, Apostolic Nuncio to Syria.

[Friday Programme Details](#)

## **Festival of Families**

### **(Saturday 25th August 2018)**

One of the most significant and beautiful events within every World Meeting of Families is the Festival of Families. This concert-type event will take place in a large venue in Dublin on the evening of the 25th August 2018. It 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.

## **Final Mass for World Meeting of Families 2018**

### **(Sunday 26th August 2018)**

The World Meeting of Families concludes with a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration that will gather individuals and families from all around the world in thanksgiving and communion. The Mass will mark the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Dublin and the next diocese to host the event in conjunction with the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life will be announced.

## **Youth Programme at the WMOF2018 Congress**

### **An entire programme dedicated to young people!**

Each day, running concurrently with the adult's programme, young people aged 13 and upwards will be able to experience an exciting and dedicated programme, where they will share their faith with many other young people from around the world and fuel their faith.

## **Children's Programme at the WMOF2018 Congress**

### **Children can also have a faith experience at World Meeting of Families 2018!**

All children are welcome with their parents/carer! The children's programme will include songs, arts and crafts, dance, games and lots of fun! Fun packed faith activities, shows and workshops will entertain the children while helping them to reflect on the importance of family.

A special children's programme will be run concurrent to the adults/youth programme for children age 4 to 12. Parents will be able to leave their little ones at the children's programme with a professional vetted team or stay with them while the children enjoy an exciting and interactive programme planned just for them!

## Registration notes:

Individual adults can register as an individual or as part of a group.

- Clergy will have to register and can register as an individual or part of a group.
- Where a family wishes to register, a single family leader will register all members. Adult fees apply; all children under 18 are free but must be registered to have access to the venue.
- You can book for the Festival of Families Saturday event or the Mass on Sunday at time of registration. It cannot be added afterwards.

## Tickets for the Festival of Families on Saturday 25th August 2018

The Festival of Families is a **free ticketed** event. Every adult and child in attendance will require a ticket to access the venue. Tickets will be limited subject to venue capacity and availability.

## Accessing Festival of Families tickets when booking for the Congress

A first level of access is available for people attending the three day of Congress that will take place from the 22 to 24 August 2018. Booking a three day registration to the WMOF2018 Congress guarantees the opportunity to book a free ticket to the Festival of Families at time of registration, as well as for the Final Mass. Subject to availability at time of registration, booking a one day ticket will include an option to access tickets to the Festival of Families and the Final Mass.

[Click here to register for the Congress and access your tickets to the Festival of Families subject to availability.](#)

## Through each Diocese in Ireland

Subject to availability, a limited allocation of tickets to the Festival of Families on Saturday 25th August 2018 will be made available through each diocese in Ireland. Further details will be made available in the coming months.

Further information on booking free tickets for the Festival of Families will be announced closer to the date of the event, as well as times for sharing, reflecting and celebrating, while engaging in a once in a lifetime experience of faith and celebration.



### WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2018

07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast Business Lecture
08:45 - 09:15	Morning Prayer
09:30 - 10:30	Panel Session & Workshops
09:15 - 12:15	Children's Programme
09:15 - 12:15	Youth Programme
11:15 - 12:15	Panel Session & Workshops
12:30 - 13:45	Lunch Programme
14:00 - 18:00	Keynote Address Testimony Celebration of the Mass
18:30 - 19:30	Panel Session & Workshops
18:30 - 19:30	Children's Programme
18:30 - 20:00	Youth Programme
09:00 - 20:00	Exhibition

### THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2018

07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast Business Lecture
08:45 - 09:15	Morning Prayer
09:30 - 10:30	Panel Session & Workshops
09:15 - 12:15	Children's Programme
09:15 - 12:15	Youth Programme
11:15 - 12:15	Panel Session & Workshops
12:30 - 13:45	Lunch Programme
14:00 - 18:00	Keynote Address Testimony Celebration of the Mass
18:30 - 19:30	Panel Session & Workshops
18:30 - 19:30	Children's Programme
18:30 - 20:00	Youth Programme
09:00 - 20:00	Exhibition

### FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2018

07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast Business Lecture
08:45 - 09:15	Morning Prayer
09:30 - 10:30	Panel Session & Workshops
09:15 - 12:15	Children's Programme
09:15 - 12:15	Youth Programme
11:15 - 12:15	Panel Session & Workshops
12:30 - 13:45	Lunch Programme
14:00 - 19:00	Keynote Address Testimony Conclusion Celebration of the Mass
19:00 - 20:00	Evening Gathering
09:00 - 18:00	Exhibition



## WMOF2018 DAY TWO - Wednesday 22 August - Pastoral Congress in the RDS

### **THEME – THE FAMILY AND FAITH**

We are pleased to announce the following confirmed main celebrant, speakers, panelists and topics.

#### **MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST - MASS IN MAIN ARENA (Afternoon)**

##### **H.E. Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, India.**

Theme: 'The Church as a family of families'.

#### **MAIN ARENA KEYNOTE SPEAKER (Afternoon)**

##### **H.E. Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, United States of America**

Theme: 'The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world'.

*Followed by 30 minute testimony: Young People on their Hopes and Dreams for Marriage & the Family in the Third Millennium.*

### **PANELS AND WORKSHOPS**

#### **Business Breakfast (7.30 a.m.): Theme – Why family matters to the economy.**

*Please note: the Business Breakfast lectures are not included in the Pastoral Congress Registration. To attend this event you must book separately. Places are limited. [Click here for more information.](#)*

#### **Major Panels:**

##### **Major Panel 1: (9.30 – 10.20 a.m.)**

Theme: ***In light of the Word: celebrating family in the Judeo-Christian Tradition.***

Moderator: H.E. Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, Austria.

Panelists: Details to follow.

##### **Major Panel 2: (11.00 -11.50 a.m.)**

Theme: ***Looking to Jesus: presenting commitment to marriage as a path to joy today.***

Moderator: H.E. Cardinal Gerald Cyprien Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec, Canada.

Panelists: Details to follow.

##### **Major Panel 3: (11.00 -11.50 a.m.)**

Theme: ***And the greatest is love: Pope Francis on 1 Cor 13***

Moderator: Linda Ghisoni, Under-Secretary, Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Panelists: Details to follow.

##### **Major Panel 3: (Evening)**

Theme: ***The Vocation of the Business Leader: A Family Business Perspective.***

Moderator: H.E. Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development.

Panelists: Details to follow.

#### **Panel Workshops (9.30 – 10.20 a.m.):**

##### **Workshop 1:**

Theme: ***The Bible in the home: using the scriptures to pray as family***

##### **Workshop 2:**

Theme: ***Handing on the faith in the home today.***

##### **Workshop 3:**

Theme: ***The Logic of Complementarity: why mothers and fathers matter in Amoris Laetitia.***

##### **Workshop 4:**

Theme: ***No room at the inn: a Christian response to homelessness.***

**Workshop 5:**

Theme: *Nowhere to lay his head: a Christian response to refugees.*

**Workshop 6:**

Theme: *Dignity and Safety in a Digital Age: facing a new challenge for families.*

**Workshops (11.00 – 11.50 a.m.):****Workshop 1:**

Theme: *Choose life: Pope Francis on the 'throw-away' culture.*

Speaker: H.E. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, Philippines.

**Workshop 2:**

Theme: *The Family: A Resource for Society.*

**Workshop 3:**

Theme: *The Importance of belonging: exploring contemporary interest in genealogy.*

**Workshop 4:**

Theme: *Families and Parish supporting families with Special Needs.*

**Workshop 5:**

Theme: *Why get married in Church? Presenting Sacramental Marriage as a path to joy.*

**Workshop 6:**

Theme: *Supporting families coping with addiction.*

**Additional Workshop during both Morning Sessions:**

*Christian Art in the Family Home: A historical perspective.*

*Practical ideas for Faith, fun and the Family Meal.*

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## **WMOF2018 DAY THREE - Thursday 23 August - Pastoral Congress in the RDS**

***THEME – THE FAMILY AND LOVE***

We are pleased to announce the following confirmed main celebrant, speakers, panelists and topics.

**MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST - MASS IN MAIN ARENA (Afternoon)****H.E. Cardinal João Braz de Aviz,**

Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Theme: 'Love endures all things: why strong marriages make stronger societies'.

**MAIN ARENA KEYNOTE SPEAKER (Afternoon)****H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, England.**

Theme: 'Support and preparation for marriage in the light of Amoris Laetitia'.

*Followed by 30 minute testimony: Couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 years of Marriage.*

**PANELS AND WORKSHOPS****Business Breakfast - Women, leadership and business: a family perspective.**

*Please note: the Business Breakfast lectures are not included in the Pastoral Congress Registration. To attend this event you must book separately. Places are limited. [Click here for more information.](#)*

**Major Panels:****Major Panel 1: (9.30 – 10.20 a.m.)**

Theme: *When Plates fly: Pope Francis on the reality of love in family life.*

Moderator: H.E. Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, United States of America.

Panelists: Details to follow.

**Major Panel 2: (11.00 – 11.50 a.m.)**

Theme: *The Dignity and Beauty of Sexual Love: finding new language for ancient truths*

Moderator: H.E. Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, United States of America.

Panelists: Details to follow.

**Major Panel 3: (Evening)**

Theme: *Care for our Common Home: why the family matters to the future of our planet.*

Moderator: H.E. Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, SDB, Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar.

Panelists: Details to follow.

**Workshops: (9.30 -10.20 a.m.):**

**Workshop 1:**

Theme: *Love made fruitful: Amoris Laetitia on cherishing the gift of new life.*

**Workshop 2:**

Theme: *A Hidden Treasure: the theology of the body of Saint John Paul II.*

**Workshop 3:**

Theme: *Handing on the faith between the Generations: the role of grandparents.*

**Workshop 4:**

Theme: *Supporting newly married couples in the Parish.*

**Workshop 5:**

Theme: *The joys and challenges of parenting today.*

**Workshop 6:**

Theme: *Coping with crises and hurt in marriage.*

**Workshops (11.00 -11.50 a.m.):**

**Workshop 1:**

Theme: *Pope Francis on the Revolution of Tenderness.*

H.E. Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Workshop 2:**

Theme: *Who is doing the dishes: Pope Francis on the little things that matter in family life.*

**Workshop 3:**

Theme: *Vocational discernment and the family: preparing for the next Synod.*

**Workshop 4:**

Theme: *Pope Francis on the vocation of fatherhood.*

**Workshop 5:**

Theme: *Faith, Family and development: the witness of women in leadership.*

**Workshop 6:**

Theme: *Marriage Preparation in the Light of Amoris Laetitia: continuing the conversation*

**Additional Workshop during both Morning Sessions.**

*The journey from addiction: what families can learn from the life of Venerable Matt Talbot.*

*The Family as a theme in Music: the Irish tradition.*

*What should we be saying to young people about sex, love and the social media?*

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## WMOF2018 DAY FOUR - Friday 24 August - Pastoral Congress in the RDS

### **THEME – THE FAMILY AND HOPE**

We are pleased to announce the following confirmed main celebrant, speakers, panelists and topics.

#### **MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST - MASS IN MAIN ARENA (Afternoon)**

##### **H.E. Cardinal Kevin Farrell**

Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Theme: 'The Family: Hope for the Church and for the world'.

#### **MAIN ARENA KEYNOTE SPEAKER (Afternoon)**

##### **H.E. Cardinal Mario Zenari, Apostolic Nuncio to Syria.**

Theme: 'The family as a key to peace in a turbulent world'.

*Followed by 30 minute testimony: Christian Families from the Nineveh Plain.*

### **PANELS AND WORKSHOPS**

#### **Business Breakfast: The family: key to a sustainable economy.**

*Please note: the Business Breakfast lectures are not included in the Pastoral Congress Registration. To attend this event you must book separately. Places are limited. [Click here for more information.](#)*

#### **Major Panels:**

##### **Major Panel 3: (9.30 – 10.20 a.m.)**

Theme: ***Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults***

Moderator: H.E. Cardinal Seán O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston, United States of America

Panelists: Details to follow.

##### **Major Panel 1: (11.00 – 11.50 a.m.)**

Theme: ***Dancing to the Future with Hope: Strengthening Marriage & the Family today.***

Moderator: Gabriella Gambino, Under-secretary, Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Panelists: Details to follow.

##### **Major Panel 2: (11.00 – 11.50 a.m.)**

Theme: ***Glued to our Phones: can technology become more family friendly?***

Moderator: Details to follow.

Panelists: Leaders in Major Technology Companies.

#### **Workshops: (9.30 -10.20 a.m.)**

##### **Workshop 1:**

Theme: ***Pope Francis on the Gospel of the Family: What is Jesus calling our families to be?***

Bishop Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, United States of America

##### **Workshop 2:**

Theme: ***Accompanying, discerning and integrating: human fragility and Amoris Laetitia.***

##### **Workshop 3:**

Theme: ***Celebrating the Lord's Day as Family.***

##### **Workshop 4:**

Theme: ***Relationship and sexuality education in the light of Amoris Laetitia.***

##### **Workshop 5:**

Theme: ***Ministering to families with members in prison.***

##### **Workshop 6:**

Theme: ***Breaking the silence: dealing with domestic violence.***

**Workshops (11.00 -11.50 a.m.):**

**Workshop 1:**

Theme: *Celebrating Family and Sport*

**Workshop 2:**

Theme: *The family that prays together: finding time for prayer in a digital age.*

**Workshop 3:**

Theme: *Promoting the Gospel of the Family: the role of family associations today.*

**Workshop 4:**

Theme: *The role and rights of parents in Catholic education.*

**Workshop 5:**

Theme: *The Family as an Agent of Peace in a turbulent world.*

**Workshop 6:**

Theme: *Marriage, the Family and the search for Christian Unity.*

**Additional Interactive Workshops during both morning sessions:**

*Lectio Divina as a resource for the Family: An introduction.*

Please note that this information is subject to change.

Pastoral Congress formally closes on Friday afternoon.