PRAYER AND FAMILY LIFE

It’s our fourth weekend reflecting on the family, our own families and praying for them on the lead up to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin. This weekend we focus on Prayer, including family prayer. ‘A family that prays together stays together’ is an old saying. And praying together was an old practise and still is for some. During the week I read an article ‘Prayer as Seeking Depth’. A few thoughts from that article might be worth reflecting on.

In our more reflective or indeed challenging times we sense the importance of prayer, yet we struggle to pray. Sustained deep prayer doesn’t come easy for us. Why?

First of all, we struggle to make time for prayer. We feel Prayer doesn’t accomplish anything practical for us. Many don’t trust that prayer actually works and we only pray when we want something. Beyond that we struggle to concentrate when we try to pray. Once we do settle in to pray we soon feel overwhelmed by daydreams, unfinished conversations, worries, agendas, and the impending tasks that face us. Finally, we struggle to pray because we really don’t know how to pray.

One of the places we can turn to for help is the Gospel of St. Luke. There we find Jesus praying in virtually every kind of situation. He prays when he is in agony, he prays the prayer of gratitude, he prays with others around him, he prays when he is alone at night, he prays in his own words. He prays on a high mountain, in a sacred place, and where ordinary life is lived. He prays a lot. And the lesson isn't lost on his followers. They sense that Jesus’ real depth and power are drawn from his prayer. They know he is linked to the power above and beyond himself. And they want this for themselves. That is why they asked Jesus ‘Lord, teach us how to pray? Could we ask Him to help us too?’

FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

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

We All Belong to Family
Special Outdoor Parish Mass on 23rd August

On Thursday 23rd we will have a special outdoor Mass to coincide with the Gathering in Dublin. The significance of family is special to so many people of all ages. Not too long ago families cared for one another in the home and in the community. Generations of Irish people were sustained by strong family life. The World Meeting of Families in Dublin is about underlining the vital part family plays in all our lives. We want to emphasise that same message here in our community. Everyone of all ages is connected to family. We all belong to one. It’s where our lives begin. It’s members are connected with us from the cradle to the grave. Our gathering here in our community is special to remind us all that we belong to family.

Novena to Our Lady of Knock 14th to 22nd August

Mass: Tuesday + Friday 7.00 p.m. - Thursday 10.00 a.m.
Wed. 10.00 a.m. Kilmurry + 11.00 Sixmilebridge
Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady
Wednesday 19th August - A Holy Day

Prayer to Our Blessed Mother
Take my hand, O Blessed Mother,
Hold me firmly lest I fall,
I am nervous when I’m walking,
And to Thee I humbly call.
Guide me over every crossing,
Watch me when I’m on the stairs,
Let me know you are beside me,
Listen to my fervent prayer.
Bring me to my destination,
Safely every single day,
Help me with each undertaking,
As the hours pass away.
And when evening falls upon me,
And I fear to be alone,
Take my hand O Blessed Mother
Once again and lead me home. 

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

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Sixmilebridge G.A.A. Club
Lotto
Numbers Drawn
23 28 30 34
Next Jackpot
€3,300

Bridge United Draw Winners
€350 Sean Fitzgerald
€200 Fergus Cooney
€100 Terry Toomey
€50 Barry Forde
€50 Mary Glynn
Next Draw will take place in Casey’s Bar on Friday 31st August

Rota Next Weekend
Readers
Eucharistic Ministers
Altar Servers
Sat. 18th 7.30 p.m. Noreen C
Sun. 19th 10.00 a.m. Josette A
Sun. 12th 11.00 a.m. David A

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