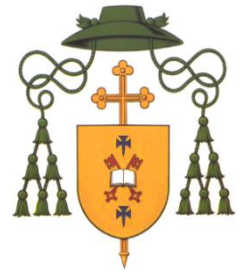


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10th March 2021

Dear Father, Deacon, Sisters and Brothers,

I invite you to join in a week of prayer which will be taking place all around the country from 13 to 19 March leading to the Feast of St Joseph and the opening of the *Amoris Laetitia* Family Year.

As you know Pope Francis has been encouraging us to remember the role and witness of St Joseph during this year. On 19 March 2021, Pope Francis will launch a year dedicated to the family which will conclude on 26 June 2022 on the occasion of the Tenth World Meeting of Families in Rome. This date also marks five years since the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) on the beauty and joy of love in the family.

I attach a resource prepared by the Council for Marriage and the Family of the Irish Bishops' Conference which offers a page per day guide to the Week of Prayer (13-19 March) and which can be easily followed in parish, school and home. Each day has a theme reflecting on family life through the lens of Saint Joseph. The resource has at its centre the prayer from Pope Francis which he wrote for the [Year of Saint Joseph](#) and some inspiring reflections from *The Joy of Love* (*Amoris Laetitia*).

Please promote the Week of Prayer in your parish bulletins and announcements this weekend and in your social media.

On 19 March 2021, the Church will celebrate five years since the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On that day, Pope Francis will launch a year dedicated to the family which will conclude on 26 June 2022 on the occasion of the Tenth World Meeting of Families in Rome.

Visuals for each day of the Week of Prayer are also available to download from www.catholicbishops.ie.

Wishing you every blessing

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eamon Martin".

Most Rev Eamon Martin
Apostolic Administrator