

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES AUSTRALIA 2022

Hosting Guidelines



| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Welcome | 2 |
| How to use the guidelines | 2 |
| Program | 4 |
| Pre-recorded Presentations | 13 |
| Promotion | 14 |
| Preparation | 16 |
| Prayer | 18 |
| Hosting and Honouring | 20 |
| Speakers Guide | 21 |
| Appendix | 24 |



Welcome

Welcome and thank you for being a part of the 10th World Meeting of Families (WMOF) organised by the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life along with the Diocese of Rome. This event is intended to gather families to celebrate the joy of family life and explore the theme: "Family love: A vocation and a path to holiness."

After being postponed for a year due to the pandemic, Pope Francis has asked dioceses around the world to make it possible for every family to participate in the WMOF. While Rome will be the main venue for the event on 22–26 June 2022, each diocese around the world will promote and host local events.

In 2021 a WMOF Australia working committee was set up with the aim of creating resources that could be used to support dioceses, parishes, community and family groups to host WMOF events. These resources can be found online at: the National Centre for Evangelisation's website: www.family.catholic.org.au. The official website of the WMOF also has helpful resources: www.romefamily2022.com/en.

How to use the guidelines

Program: The WMOF Australian committee has created a template for three different program structures. Consider which program you will offer: one day, two days, or three days.

Promotion and Preparation: As you make arrangements for the gathering, begin promotion immediately utilising the promotional resources available online.

Prayer: Pray in the lead-up to the gathering for its success and ensure you have prepared joyful prayers for the gathering.

Hosting and Honouring: Be a gracious and Christian host, honouring those gathered.

About the working committee

The Life, Marriage and Family Network has created the WMOF Australia project which is made up of a voluntary working group creating resources to support local events. The working committee includes:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Karin Abrams | Coordinator - Marriage Education Support and Enrichment Life, Marriage and Family Office, Diocese of Parramatta |
| Emma Baker | Team Leader - Life, Marriage and Family Broken Bay Diocese |
| Matthew Biddle | Digital Engagement Officer, National Centre for Evangelisation, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Steve Buhagiar | Team Leader Life, Marriage and Family Office, Archdiocese of Sydney |
| Laura Cain | Community Engagement, SmartLoving and the Marriage Resource Centre |
| Nathan Costin | Team Leader Discipleship, Archdiocese of Melbourne |
| Chris Da Silva | Director of Mission and Evangelisation, Diocese of Armidale |
| Malcolm Hart | Director, National Centre for Evangelisation, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference |
| Jude Hennessy | Director of the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation, Diocese of Wollongong |
| Lara Kirk | Manager Marriage, Family, Relationships, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn |
| Brendon Mannyx | Manager Mission and Outreach, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle |
| Michael Otto | Executive Officer of Family Life, Diocese of Rockhampton |
| Francine Pirola | Director of the Parish and Marriage Resource Centre |
| Mavis and Ron Pirola | Representing the Grandparents Association |
| Fr Pat Rooney | Chaplain of Marriage Encounter |
| John Shay | WMOF 2022 Australia Project Coordinator, Director Natural Fertility Services Queensland |
| Ben Smith | Director Office of Life, Marriage and Family, Archdiocese of Hobart |
| Chantale Wilson | Associate Director of Children and Family, Archdiocese of Brisbane |
| Helen and Leo Wursthorn | Marriage Encounter |
| Louise Zavone | Executive Secretary, Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference |

Program

In 2022, the World Meeting of Families will take place in a multicentric format. As families gather for the main event with the Holy Father in Rome, local events will be celebrated around the world with families gathering with their local Bishop.

This resource provides a sample program that gives you options to host a one day, two day and three day event. Resources include pre-recorded talks, talk outlines for local speakers, discussion guides, activities for children and liturgy notes.

Videos will be released before the event from the Diocese of Rome. The WMOF Australian project also intends to produce a selection of Australian videos that will explore the WMOF 2022 theme and can be used at local events.

Many dioceses, parishes and communities will be hosting gatherings and you are encouraged to link with these events where possible. If there are none scheduled for your area, consider hosting one with your own network.

See a list of local events at: www.family.catholic.org.au.



Program structure examples

The following are examples and need to be considered in light of local community resources, distances, COVID-19 restrictions, accessibility and appeal.

WMOF - 1 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Saturday 25 June | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 9AM | Opening liturgy | Mass | | | | |
| 10AM | Official welcome | Parish priest | Coordinating team | Parish priest | Bishop | Welcome to Country |
| 10.15AM | Morning tea | | | | | |
| 10.45AM | Whole family catechesis using WMOF theme with period of individual family reflection | Online (live) | Online (pre-recorded) | Local presentation | | |
| 11.15AM | Formation streams session 1 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 12PM | Angelus | | | | | |
| 12.10PM | Lunch | | | | | |
| 1.15PM | Family focused activities | Egg and Spoon race | Sack and three-legged race | Tug-of-War | | |
| 2.30PM | Afternoon tea | | | | | |
| 4.30PM | Family prayer opportunity | Prepared prayer resource for family use | Whole group rosary in the church – children led | Whole group Stations of the Cross (live) | | |
| or | Formation streams session 1 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 5.30PM | Dinner | Parish BBQ | Potluck | Catered | | |
| 6.30PM | Family testimony time | Whole family testimony session – e.g. a family and its members | Focused family testimony session e.g. children, singles, etc. | | | |
| 7PM | Family prayer to close the day | Procession – Eucharistic/ Marian | Structured family prayer period in parish church | Quiet family prayer time in parish church with Adoration | Bonfire – gifts and graces received | Outdoor candlelight family gathering at local shrine |

WMOF - 2 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Saturday 25 June | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 8AM | Opening liturgy | Mass | | | | |
| 8.30 AM | Official welcome | Parish priest | Coordinating team | Parish priest | Bishop | Welcome to Country |
| 8.45AM | Whole family Catechesis on WMOF theme with period of individual family reflection | Online (live) | Online (pre-recorded) | Local presentation | | |
| 9.15AM | Formation streams session 1 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 10AM | Morning tea | | | | | |
| 10.45AM | Formation streams session 2 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 11.30AM | Lunch | | | | | |
| 1.15PM | Whole family catechesis using key WMOF theme with period of individual family reflection | Online (live) | | Online (pre-recorded) | Local presentation | |
| 1.45PM | Family focused activity | Egg and Spoon race | Sack and three-legged race | Tug-of-war | | |
| 3PM | Afternoon tea | | | | | |

WMOF - 2 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Saturday 25 June | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 3.45PM | Formation streams session 3 | | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 4.30PM | Family prayer opportunity | Prepared prayer resource for individual family use | Whole group rosary in the church (children led) | Whole group outdoor Stations of the Cross (live) | | |
| 5.30PM | Dinner | Parish BBQ | Potluck | Catered | | |
| 6.15PM | Family testimony time | Whole family testimony session – e.g. a family and its members | Focused family testimony session e.g. children, singles, married couples | | | |
| 7PM | Family prayer to close the day | Procession Eucharistic/ Marian | Structured Family prayer period in parish church | Quiet family prayer time in parish church with Adoration | Bonfire – gifts and graces received | Outdoor candlelight family gathering at local shrine |
| or | Family focused activity to close day | Kahoot game with short closing prayer | Games night with short closing prayer | Trivia night with short closing prayer | | |

WMOF - 2 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Sunday 26 June | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 10AM | Sunday family Mass | Local parish Mass | Diocesan Mass in Cathedral | | | |
| | Family commissioning | Parish priest commissions families | Bishop commissions families | | | |
| 11AM | Whole family catechesis using key WMOF theme with period of individual family reflection | Online (live) | Online (pre-recorded) | Local presentation | | |
| 11.30AM | Lunch | At parish | At Cathedral | At local park or reserve | | |
| 1PM | Family activities | Wheel barrow races | Rob the nest | Treasure hunt | Kahoot family trivia | |
| or | Formation streams session 4 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 2PM onwards to close the WMOF | Family pilgrimage opportunity | Pilgrimage to local diocesan shrine | Structured pilgrimage using WMOF theme stops | | | |

WMOF - 3 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Friday 24 June | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 6.30PM | Opening liturgy | Mass | | | | |
| 7.30PM | Official welcome | Parish priest | Bishop | Welcome to Country | | |
| 7.45PM | Dinner | Parish BBQ | Potluck | | | |
| 8.30PM | Family focused activity | Kahoot | Games night | Trivia night | | |
| 9.30PM | Closing prayer | Structured family prayer period in parish church | Quiet family prayer time in parish church with Adoration | Outdoor candlelight family gathering at local shrine | | |

WMOF - 3 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Saturday 25 June | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 8AM | Opening liturgy | Mass | | | | |
| 8.30AM | Welcome | Parish priest | Coordinating team | Bishop | Welcome to Country | |
| 8.45AM | Whole family catechesis on WMOF theme with period of individual family reflection | Online (live) | Online (pre-recorded) | Local presentation | | |
| 9.15AM | Formation streams session 1 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 10AM | Morning tea | | | | | |
| 10.45AM | Formation streams session 2 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 11.30AM | Lunch | | | | | |
| 1.15PM | Whole family catechesis using key WMOF theme with period of individual family reflection | Online (live) | | Online (pre-recorded) | Local presentation | |
| 1.45PM | Family focused activity | Egg and Spoon race | Sack and three-legged race | Tug-of-war | | |
| 3PM | Afternoon tea | | | | | |

WMOF - 3 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Saturday 25 June | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 3.45PM | Formation streams session 3 | E.g. Infants | E.g. Primary | E.g. Secondary | E.g. Young adults | E.g. Married couples |
| 4.30PM | Family prayer opportunity | Prepared prayer resource for individual family use | Whole group rosary in the church – children led | Whole group outdoor Stations of the Cross (live) | | |
| 5.30PM | Dinner | Parish BBQ | Potluck | Catered | | |
| 6.15PM | Family testimony time | Whole family testimony session e.g. a family and its members | Focused family testimony session e.g. children, singles, married couples | | | |
| 7PM | Family prayer to close the day | Procession – Eucharistic | Procession – Marian | Candlelight | Bonfire – gifts and graces received | |

WMOF - 3 DAY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

| Sunday 26 June | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Time | Description | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| 10AM | Sunday family Mass | Local parish Mass | Diocesan Mass in Cathedral | | | |
| | Family commissioning | Parish priest commissions families | Bishop commissions families | | | |
| 11AM | Whole family catechesis using key WMOF theme with period of individual family reflection | Online (live) | Online (pre-recorded) | Local presentation | | |
| 11.30AM | Lunch | At parish | At Cathedral | At local park or reserve | | |
| 12.30PM onwards to close the WMOF | Family pilgrimage opportunity | Pilgrimage to local diocesan shrine | Structured pilgrimage using WMOF theme stops | | | |

Pre-recorded Presentations

Pre-recorded presentations will be produced and shared on the [WMOF Australia website](#), accompanied by a set of reflection questions to use in your local gatherings.

These presentations can be utilised in a variety of agenda and gathering styles, however there are several key elements which are essential to all approaches:

- Fellowship: We must allow families time to connect with one another. This is demonstrated by breaks to meet and connect with other families.
- Prayer: We must gather to pray and be prayerful in our gathering. This is demonstrated by allowing enough time to pray in your program, with local preparation and leadership.
- Small Group Discussion: We must share, explore and speak aloud to each other in small groups to share our learnings and yearnings inspired by the catechesis sessions. This is demonstrated by 'small' groups (12-15 people) and suitable discussion time to allow for deeper reflection.



Individual Program

If you are reflecting on the WMOF theme by yourself you can go through the resources at your convenience. It is important to give yourself time to reflect on the presentations, so please take time to journal your responses to the reflection questions, allowing yourself to process and consider how it relates to you and your family.

Promotion

The World Meeting of Families is an evangelisation initiative. The invitation, welcome and hospitality of your gatherings are critical to this mission. We are working in partnership with the Holy Spirit to prepare the way of the Lord and allow Him to evangelise.

Some promotional resources are included below, to help you make the most of this moment of grace. In all we do we strive to ensure the safety of those gathered (physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually) and to create a space for the Holy Spirit.

Promotional Resources

The [World Meeting of Families website](#) has a promotional resources page with a parish bulletin notice, social media graphics as well as a poster and flyer. Please visit this page and utilise these tools in your local community newsletters, networks, and on social media. Be sure to include a personal invitation and details of your hosting site.

The [National Centre for Evangelisation Facebook page](#) has a number of promotional materials to share. Please consider sharing these on your social media platforms. Be sure to follow the page to receive regular updates and news of ongoing initiatives.

To promote your local event, please inform the National Centre for Evangelisation by emailing: info@nce.catholic.org.au with the following information.

What diocese will your event be hosted in?

Who is it for?:

Event details:

Date and time:

Contact:

The information you email will be placed on the NCE website so other families in your community can connect with your local WMOF event.

Why Gather Families?

Families are the domestic church (*Lumen Gentium* #11). It is in the context of the family that we first learn who God is and to prayerfully seek His will for us. Gathering families is an opportunity for fellowship and encouragement to share the joys and sorrows of life with one another and to explore how the Holy Spirit is working in and through our own families.

Prayers of the Faithful

Reader: For the World Meeting of Families happening in June 2022.

We pray that through this global event the Church will renew its dedication to and appreciation for the gift of family life. May the event bring the families of every parish and diocese in the world together around their bishop and may family love be recognised as a vocation and a path to holiness.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Parish Bulletin Notice

World Meeting of Families - 22-26 June 2022

Every three years since 1994, the Church has celebrated the World Meeting of Families in a different city of the world. In 2022 the event will be hosted by the Diocese of Rome with Pope Francis leading special celebrations. However, the Holy Father has also asked that the World Meeting of Families be celebrated concurrently in every diocese of the world in 2022. The idea is for families to gather locally around their bishop to explore and celebrate the theme of "Family love: A vocation and a path to holiness."

Find out more at: www.family.catholic.org.au

Flyers, Poster and Prayer Card

You can find collateral to promote your local event including a poster, DL flyer, A5 prayer card, Instagram carousel on the [World Meeting of Families website](http://www.family.catholic.org.au).

These resources have been created to support you in promoting your local World Meeting of Families event.



Preparation

Hosting a gathering of families is a rewarding experience and a critical ministry for the Church. In preparing we must develop an understanding of the importance of this ministry as well as make the logistical preparations needed.

Logistical Preparations

Hosting a gathering could seem overwhelming, however the Church often gathers people together and is set up to support you and to make it an easy process. Here are a few simple steps and elements to be aware of:

- **Your Hosting Site:** It is recommended that you gather large groups at a parish, diocesan, or school location, thus utilising existing resources and processes to ensure the safety of the group and yourself. Existing church sites have trained staff and processes to manage workplace health and safety (or state equivalents), insurance, risk management, catering procedures, COVID-19 requirements, etc. Liaise with venue staff to ensure you have the support you need and meet the standards required. They are there to help.
- **Small Groups or Home Gatherings:** If you are gathering a small group in your home or other location, then please ensure you are aware of local COVID-19 restrictions, attendees' food allergies, and any possible scenarios which may come up. These aren't always life-threatening situations, but a simple brainstorming of situations and how you would deal with them would assist you to respond safely and calmly. See suggestions below.
- **COVID-19 Requirements:** COVID-19 is still a very real concern to our community and our gatherings. Firstly, if you are preparing for a gathering, you must check your local state health department's website for the status of requirements and restrictions related to COVID-19. Please respond accordingly, including adhering to physical distancing and venue capacities, mask requirements, provision of hand sanitiser and appropriate check-in procedures.
- **Alternative Gathering Plan:** In light of the fluctuating COVID-19 realities and potential changes in the availability of your group, it will be helpful to make alternative arrangements to participate in case restrictions or a lockdown are implemented at short notice. This can include access to an online meeting platform (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, etc), alternative program options (see above), postponing the gathering to a later date, and contact details for your participants to provide up-to-date information.
- **Under 18:** As this is a pastoral event for families we expect children will be in attendance with their parents/ guardians therefore, you must adhere to diocesan safeguarding policies and develop a safeguarding response.
- **Hospitality:** Ensure you have created a welcoming and safe space for families to gather. Simple strategies are essential such as car parking, signage and directions, name tags, tea and coffee freely available, seating and a personal welcome. To meet some of these essentials, you may like to outline a small budget and discuss with your community leadership to ensure you have more than adequate hospitality for your gathering.

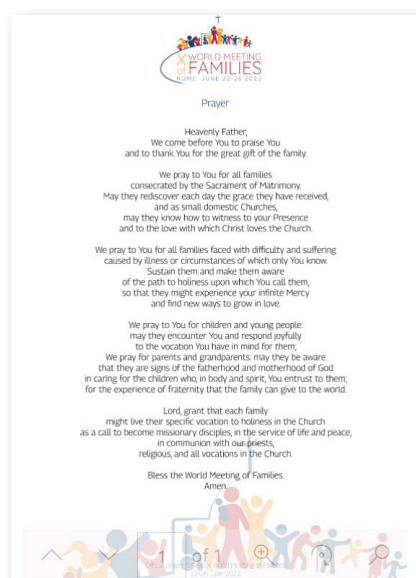
- Ask for Help and Coordinate: In attempting to do everything ourselves we often fulfil tasks poorly or miss opportunities to be present to the group gathered. Invite others to assist, lead and share where possible. This allows you to 'coordinate' and arrive at the gathering open to what the Holy Spirit might ask of you. At the gathering, we want to be Mary at the feet of Jesus, rather than Martha racing around busy.
- Some simple considerations for Hosting Site Coordinators include:
 - If you have to postpone or cancel... do you have an alternative meeting plan and schedule, can you contact participants to notify them of the change?
 - Imagine arriving at your own venue... What time of day is it and how would you feel? What would you expect? What would be unexpected and nice to have?
 - If a participant become ill... can you respond with first aid or by calling an ambulance?
 - If a participant discloses something confronting or challenging... how would you respond, who can you connect them with?
 - If a disagreement occurs... how would you resolve the discussion and move forward?
 - If a participant cannot get home because their car won't start or public transport has stopped... how could you help them?
 - If a participant is moved by the experience and stays behind to chat and wants to know more or share their personal faith encounter... will you have time to invest with them? What would you say? Where would you direct them for ongoing spiritual support?
 - What else can you think of?

Prayer

Prayer is foundational to any gathering of the faithful. We invite all leaders and participants to pray in preparation for the gathering, together during the initiative and then together to discern ways of praying beyond your meeting. Please find some examples and resources for prayer which you may find helpful below.

Official Prayer of the WMOF

We invite you to pray with us the [official prayer of the World Meeting of Families](#) in the lead-up to the event.



Catechesis and Meditation

We also encourage families to reflect on the seven catechesis topics provided by the Diocese of Rome, which you can read on their [website](#).

1. Vocation and family
2. Called to holiness
3. Nazareth: Making love normal
4. We are all children, we are all brothers and sisters
5. Fathers and mothers
6. Grandparents and the elderly
7. Excuse me, thank you, sorry

In the lead-up to the event, we encourage you and your family to reflect on the official image and meditate upon it. Refer to page 25.

Your Local Community of Families

The 2022 WMOF gatherings will bring together families and ask them to reflect on the official theme: "Family love: A vocation and a path to holiness". In the first instance, you are encouraged to invite family groups to prepare and lead your prayer.

Our communities are filled with talented musicians, readers, speakers and leaders, and many others who are willing to be involved if invited. Take the time to identify, accompany and prepare families to lead your community in prayer.

Music and Multimedia

The World Meeting of Families has an official hymn.

You can listen to and download the official WMOF hymn and video [here](#).

There is also the hymn text, a hymn track and score which can also be downloaded from the World Meeting of Families website.

WE BELIEVE IN LOVE
Testo e musica: MARCO FRISINA

italiano

1. Fa - mi - gia via di san-ti - tà, sei
se - gno del - l'a - mo - re, tu do - ni la spe - ran - za, la gio - ia, al - le - lu - ia. We be -
lieve in love, we be - lie - ve in life, we will come with you, al - le - lu - ia. We be -
lieve in love, we be - lie - ve in life, we will come with you, al - le - lu - ia. 2. You

inglese

Dal Σ al Θ

Australia has a number of local musicians and locally-produced multimedia resources that can assist you to lead prayer at your gathering. Below are several Australian musicians and multimedia content that you could draw upon for your gathering.

Musicians:

Gen Bryant - <https://genbryant.com>

Fr Rob Galea - <https://www.frgministry.com>

Pat Keady - <https://patkeady.com/music>

Stephen Kirk - <https://stephenkirk.com.au/music>

Worship and Multimedia:

The Well (Parramatta) - <https://thewell.org.au> (Prayer and Worship)

Hosting and Honouring

As your event occurs, we must be gracious and Christian hosts to everyone who attends. Having shared the responsibilities of the gathering with a small team or inviting participants to make contributions, we can be attentive and positive in how we act, speak, and respond to all participants. This gathering is about the families gathered; be of service to them.

Photos and Testimonies

Be sure to take some simple photos of your WMOF gathering. Capture small groups and faces, rather than large, broad photos. Collect names if you don't know them. Invite families to share their experiences with some small quotes and thoughts. These photos and testimonies can make good content for a parish newsletter, reflection or social media post to share the joy of the day. It can also be shared with the diocese or nationally to celebrate families gathering in this way. Highlighting families gathering to share their faith is an important evangelisation mission.

Thank you

Any gathering requires a time to give thanks for those who have prepared the event, but also to those who have shared their stories, time and talent. A time of thanks should be prepared and include three elements:

- To organisers and guests: to those who planned, prepared and facilitated the gathering. The speakers and those who lead prayer locally.
- To those gathered: To the families who choose to gather, who took a risk to attend.
- What are you thankful for?: Invite the group to share with the person next to them something they are thankful for from the gathering. Something they learnt or experienced during their time together.

Speaker's Guide

If you have gifted presenters, speakers and families who are willing to share their testimonies at an event, the WMOF Australia committee has created this guide for you. It includes a letter of invitation drafted for you to adapt and send to a presenter, catechesis themes with bullet points and a focussed session matrix with suggested themes for specific audiences to support local speakers in crafting a presentation.

In lieu of Local Speakers

Leaders: If your group or diocese does not have the resources to provide a live local speaker to address the various audiences gathered, the provided video presentations can be shown. These videos will be supplied by the WMOF Australia subcommittee.

Please note: Speakers may include individuals, couples or whole families.

Please screen the videos beforehand to make sure they are appropriate to the audience you will be showing them to.



Letter of invitation to local speakers

Dear Friend in Christ,

Thank you for sharing your time and talent to help evangelise through the World Meeting of Families local events happening around Australia in June, 2022.

Background:

The World Meeting of Families was started by Saint John Paul II in 1994 and takes place every three years in different places around the world. The event starts with an international Theological-Pastoral Congress and ends, in the presence of the Pope, with a vigil, a Festival of Families and with a Eucharistic celebration. This year Pope Francis has invited dioceses and parishes around the world to participate with local events in parallel to the main event happening in Rome.

Catechesis Topics:

There are seven catechesis topics that have been provided for the World Meeting of Families 2022:

- Vocation and family
- Called to holiness
- Nazareth: Making love normal
- We are all children, we are all brothers and sisters
- Fathers and mothers
- Grandparents and the elderly
- Excuse me, thank you, sorry

You can read them in full here: www.romefamily2022.com/en/catechesi

We would like all those who attend a local World Meeting of Families to have time to explore the messages within these catecheses.

Breaking open the themes of the catecheses

To assist local speakers around Australia, a World Meeting of Families Australia subcommittee was formed. These representatives met together to read and break open the themes, listing and numbering themes with relevant bullet points to assist presenters in developing talks for their local event.

The bullet points and notes can be used in conjunction with the original catechesis and a speaker can adapt their presentation to the various audiences and age groups. These themes and points have been labelled T.1, T.2, T.3 etc and put into a targeted audience matrix. This aims to support a speaker in choosing a focus area from a catechesis and creating a talk for a specific audience.

The documents which break open the themes from the seven catechesis topics can be viewed [here](#).

Focused session matrix for targeted audiences

With many themes within the catechesis topics, the [focused session Matrix](#) can be used as a guide for speakers to select the themes that would be most appropriate for the age group suggested.

Presenters will need to be selective about which of the focus points to explore. The matrix is there as a guide and support.

Tips for speakers

Workshopping a presentation: We recommend that the presentations should be workshopped or previewed by a diocese leader to make sure what is delivered on the day is consistent with Catholic teaching.

Length: If you have been invited to prepare a live talk, we suggest that a 15–20 minute presentation would be ideal (strictly no more than 20 minutes). As a guide, aim for approximately 2000 words.

Pray: Spend time in prayer before writing your talk, ask the Holy Spirit to speak through you, bringing a message of life and love to all that hear your presentation.

Read and reflect: Take time to read the catechesis a few times to reflect on the contents and contemplate the message that you would like to give your local community. Speakers are encouraged to use their own testimonies and stories.

Panels: Your diocese may want to consider including in the program a panel of speakers who can deliver shorter 5-minute talks introduced and hosted by an MC. When all the panel has shared their 5-minute presentations the panel could be asked questions by the audience.

Write: Write down or type your talk which will help you process your thoughts, making sure that you have a beginning, middle and end.

Practice: Practice your talk which will improve your delivery on the day. Ask someone you trust for feedback and time your talk to ensure it is not too long or too short.

Appendix

The following pages contain information about the WMOF official logo and the WMOF official image. This information has been taken from the official WMOF [website](#).



The official logo

The logo designed for the 10th World Meeting of Families evokes the oval shape of Bernini's colonnade in St Peter's Square, the quintessential iconic place of the Catholic Church. It refers back to its original meaning, which is the welcoming and inclusive embrace of the Mother Church of Rome and of her Bishop, extending it to every man and woman throughout time. The barely visible human figures under the dome with the cross hanging above them represent husband, wife, children, grandparents and grandchildren. They aim to bring to mind the image of the Church as a "family of families" suggested by *Amoris Laetitia* (AL 87) in which "The experience of love in families is a permanent strength for the life of the Church" (AL 88). The cross of Christ that looms up towards the sky and the protective walls seem almost upheld by the families, who are real living stones of the ecclesial construction. On the left, along the thin line of the colonnade, we notice the presence of a family that is in the same position as the statues of the saints on the columns in the square. They remind us that the call to holiness can be achieved by everyone. They are meant to emphasise how it is possible to be holy in the essential living of ordinary life. The family on the left, which appears behind the line of the colonnade, also indicates all non-Catholic families, far away from the faith and outside the Church, who are watching the ecclesial event taking place from the outside. The ecclesial community has always looked at them with attention. We can also notice how dynamic the figures are that are moving to the right. They are moving outwards. They are outgoing families, examples of a non-self-referential Church. They are going in search of other families in an attempt to bring them closer and share the experience of God's mercy with them. The predominant yellow and red are a clear reference to Rome's coat of arms, a graphic design intended to express a deep bond with the community.

You can watch an animation of the logo for the World Meeting of Families [here](#).

Official Image

Painted by theologian and artist Fr Marko Ivan Rupnik, the image is titled "This Mystery is Great" taken from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians, 5:32).

The image is dedicated to the Wedding at Cana. The meaning behind the image is that "sacramental love between a man and a woman is a reflection of the indissoluble love and unity between Christ and the Church: Jesus sheds His blood for Her."



Meditation on the image written by Fr Rupnik

According to nature the family in itself is part of existence. We know that even in the animal world there are families.

Even birds and fish have families. So the family expresses the way living beings exist; it is something that belongs to the nature of creation.

Nevertheless, for our faith, according to our Christian tradition, this is not the case because with Baptism we Christians receive a new life, a life not according to the existence of nature, but according to a life that belongs to God. God shares His way of being with us.

For us Christians, the family is the expression of a sacrament, which is Marriage. And this changes its meaning completely, because a sacrament always implies transformation. It is within natural life that the Holy Spirit brings about the transformation of the way of existence. And he does so by transfiguring natural life, not by denying it, but by embracing it and transforming it, because the primacy is no longer of nature, but of the relation.

So to set up this image, on the occasion of this great gathering of families, I thought about where I should start from.

What I felt was important was to show the novelty of the family according to the Church, according to Baptism, according to life in Christ, according to the new man.

Therefore, I remembered the great Syriac Church father St Jacob of Sarug, who speaks of the "veil on Moses' Face."

St. Jacob wrote a beautiful homily in verse on the passage from the book of Genesis where it says that "God created man and woman" and then it says that "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body" that is, one life, one flesh.

St. Jacob of Sarug says that Moses spoke, yes, of man and woman, but per se he looked into this reality: a deeper reality of which he dared not speak. For this reason, he placed a veil over it, so that no one could truly see what his eyes had beheld. Why? Because humanity was not yet ready to accept this great Mystery.

Since it is about man and woman coming together, I chose the image of the Wedding at Cana. We know from the wisdom texts – such as Sirach – that wine is what gives zest to life because wine is the love that embraces the meaning of human existence. So, in the episode of Cana, when Mary says "They have no more wine", at that moment, Mary is actually saying to Christ: "These are newlyweds, but they have no more Love".

And since the relationship between God and man was perceived in the man-woman image (just think of the Song of Songs), this passage shows that the relationship between man and God is worn-out, that is, it is no longer lived, it is no longer based on Love.

In fact, the patristic tradition interprets the six jars as the law of Moses, to be used for purification. However, the six jars are empty. Moreover, they are made of stone. Thus, in practical terms, in the episode of the Wedding at Cana an enormous step forward

in the relationship between man and God takes place. A relationship based on the law that comes from the outside and that has progressively been read and understood in a moralistic way comes to an end, and a new relationship between God and man is revealed, a relationship between Father and Son, embodied by all those who make the life of the Son their own.

It is a relationship that is truly founded in Love and becomes an expression of Love.

So I took the image of Cana and turned to Jacob of Sarug.

Anyone who understands a bit of ancient Christian iconography will immediately recognise St Paul in the face of this wedding servant.

Someone might say, "But what does St Paul have to do with the Wedding at Cana, if Paul was not present at Cana of Galilee during the wedding?" It does, it does! Let's see! I would like to read some passages from Jacob of Sarug.

I said that Jacob veiled this image. In fact, Jacob says, "The prophet Moses introduced the story of the man and his wife / for through them one speaks of Christ and his Church. / With the enraptured eyes of prophecy, Moses saw Christ, / and how He and his Church would be one in the waters of Baptism; / he saw Him covered by her in the virginal womb / and she covered by Him in the baptismal water."

This encounter is formidable! He is made flesh and, as the son of God, he becomes man to then reveal the man clothed with Christ in the baptismal waters."

...the Bridegroom and the Bride have spiritually become one, / and it was of them that Moses wrote 'The two shall be one'... Then Moses, evidently veiled, "saw Christ and called him man, / he also saw the Church and called her woman." This is remarkable: he called man that which Christ was and the humanity assumed by Christ he called Church.

"And because the veil was stretched over it, / no one knew what that great painting was, or who it represented."

But now comes the best part.

"After the wedding feast [thus after Christ's Passover], Paul went in and saw / the veil spread out there, he took it and pulled it away from the beautiful couple. / In this way he uncovered and revealed to the whole world Christ and his Church / whom the prophet Moses had depicted in his prophecy. / The Apostle trembled and cried out, 'This mystery is great,' / and began to show what the covered painting was: / "In those called «man and woman» in the prophetic scriptures / I recognise Christ and his Church, the two who are one." / The veil over Moses' face has now been removed; / come all and see the glory that never fades away; / The great mystery that was veiled has now come to light. / May the wedding guests rejoice in the Bridegroom and the Bride, so beautiful. / He gave himself to her, born from a poor girl; / he made her his own, and she is bound to him and rejoices with him. / He has reached deep down and raised up the humble girl / for they are one, and where he is, there she is with him. / The great Paul, that great profundity among the apostles, / exposed the mystery, which is now clearly told. / The great beauty that had been veiled has now come into the open, / and all the peoples of the world saw its splendor. / The promised Bridegroom brought the daughter into a new womb, / and the Baptismal waters represented the birth and she was born: / He remained in the water and invited her: she went down, covered herself with Him and came back up; / she received Him in the

Eucharist, and so the words of Moses that the two shall be one were proven. / From the water comes the chaste and holy union / of Bride and Bridegroom, united in spirit through baptism. / Women are not united to their husbands in the same way / as the Church is united to the Son of God. / What bridegroom dies for his bride, / except for our Lord? / What bride has chosen a slain man as her husband? / Who, since the beginning of time, has ever given his blood as a wedding gift, / except for the Crucified One, who sealed the marriage with his own wounds? / Who has ever seen a corpse placed in the middle of a wedding feast, / with the bride embracing him, waiting to be consoled by him? / At what wedding feast, except this one, did they break / the body of the bridegroom for the guests instead of other food? / Death separates wives from their husbands, / but here it is death that unites this Bride to her Beloved! / He died on the cross and gave his body to the Bride made glorious, / who embraces him and eats him every day at her table. / He opened his side and joined his cup to the holy blood / to give it to her to drink so that she might forget her many idols. / She anointed him with oil, covered herself with him in water, consumed him in the Bread, / drank him in the Wine, so that the world would learn that the two are one. / He died on the cross, but she did not replace him with another; / she is full of love for his death, knowing that she is given life from it."

The concept that man and woman in the sacrament of Matrimony are grafted into the unity of the son of God with humanity, with the Church, is very strong.

Never again is Christ without a body, but it is the body of glory, the risen body.

Marriage is therefore a part of this indissoluble and unshakeable unity between God and man.

I would like to very briefly paraphrase St John Chrysostom, who states something that perhaps could be challenged by so many today. He affirms that the Sacrament of Matrimony is a testimony as well for consecrated persons who follow the path of virginity. In fact, it attests to them what they might not grasp so straightaway, namely, that Matrimony is fulfilling and it is an expression throughout life and history of that unity of Christ with his Bride, of Christ with the Church. Consecrated people, therefore, through married couples, understand that they too, thanks to their baptismal vocation, share in this unity of Christ, the Son of God, and humanity.

I think that in our present historical context Nikolai Berdjaev has something truly great to say. He once wrote that in Christian traditions, Marriage has not been explored yet, because we have included it too quickly into family, however according to nature. I hope that, through this text and also through this small image, we can understand that for us Christians, the family is the expression of the Sacrament and that it has an ecclesial dimension, therefore it is inseparable from the Church. In it, the bond of blood cannot compete with our participation in the blood of Christ, even if it is easy for the blood according to nature to prevail and not the blood of the Eucharist. But, as another great father, Nicholas Cabasilas, puts it: "We are truly blood relatives of Christ." Our parents gave us blood, but our blood is not the parents' blood. As soon as they gave it to us, our blood is no longer theirs. While we are nourished by life, that is, by the blood of Christ that becomes ours.

Therefore, for Christians the family is an expression of the sacrament and of ecclesiality, and it indicates how in this world man lives when he is united with God. It becomes an expression of the divine humanity of Christ.

This meditation was reproduced from the official [WMOF website](#).

Suggestions for meditations on Fr Rupnik's image "This Mystery is Great"

There are some beautiful meditations for Fr Rupnik's image, "This Mystery is Great" that you can download for your local event [here](#).



For further information about the World Meeting of Families visit:

www.family.catholic.org.au

Email: info@nce.catholic.org.au

Facebook: [@evangeliseaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/evangeliseaustralia)