



Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!

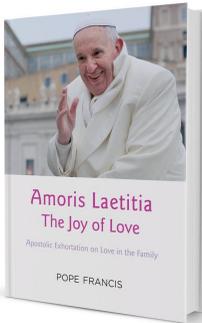
*An on-line resource
for couples, families
and small groups
in Catholic Leamington
to share in their homes.*



"The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church."

Families Matter

At the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August, people from all over the world will gather in Dublin to celebrate their lives together as families, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the various challenges they face and to grow together in faith.



Only a few people can attend this important event, but everyone in our parish can contribute to the World Meeting of Families by reflecting and feeding back on **The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)**, a recent publication written by Pope Francis. This document is available to buy or can be downloaded from: www.amoris.ie/amoris-laetitia

In the Introduction to Amoris Laetitia Pope Francis writes:

“I will begin with an opening chapter inspired by the Scriptures, to set a proper tone.

I will then examine the actual situation of families, in order to keep firmly grounded in reality.

I will go on to recall some essential aspects of the Church’s teaching on marriage and the family, thus paving the way for two central chapters dedicated to love.

I will then highlight some pastoral approaches that can guide us in building sound and fruitful homes in accordance with God’s plan, with a full chapter devoted to the raising of children.

Finally, I will offer an invitation to mercy and the pastoral discernment of those situations that fall short of what the Lord demands of us, and conclude with a brief discussion of family spirituality.”

Everyone Can Participate

To help couples and small groups to get a better understanding of this document and the Catholic view of family life, a programme called **Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!** has been developed. This on-line resource includes six-sessions that explore key messages in *The Joy of Love* in an accessible and practical way.

The six sessions are:

- Session One: The Reality of family life today
- Session Two: The Christian vision for the family
- Session Three: God's dream for love
- Session Four: Married love growing to maturity
- Session Five: God's mercy – No one is excluded
- Session Six: A Gospel of hope for our families

In each session there are a number of video clips to watch via the internet that will help couples, teenagers (some content may not be appropriate for younger children) and singles to reflect on and discuss their experience of family life and their response to Pope Francis' reflections in *The Joy of Love*.

The programme takes, as its starting point, people's experience of love and their hopes and fears with regard to marriage and family. Details of how to run the sessions, along with suitable discussion questions can be downloaded from www.amoris.ie/conversations. These and links to the videos are also available from our parish web-site: www.catholicleamington.org.uk/letstalkfamily

"I encourage everyone, whether married or single, who has access to the internet to look at these on-line resources and consider how they can review the material either within the family unit or as a small group. This programme is ideal for school or toddler group parents as well as established parish groups. The Pope is also asking us to pray for the World Meeting of Families and for the future of the family, as the cornerstone of our lives, and the fundamental building block of society and the Church."

Fr John Cross

Prayer for the World Meeting of Families 2018

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.

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.
Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.
Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.

If you would like information on how to run the programme and to view the video input please see the newly-created page on the Parish web-site: www.catholicleamington.org.uk/letstalkfamily