Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of
Families from 21-26 August 2018, guided by the theme “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”.

Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church. The event has at its heart the following key moments:

* **21 August 2018**, a [**National Opening of WMOF2018**](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/Programme/Opening), which will take place simultaneously in all the different dioceses of Ireland.
* **22 to the 24 August 2018**, [**a three-day Congress**](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/Programme/Congress).  Each day will reflect on the theme “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World” chosen by the Holy Father and will include an enriching programme for adults of keynote speakers, workshops, talks, testimonies and discussions; an engaging and exciting programme for young people as well as fun activities for children. The Congress will also include daily celebration of the Eucharist, prayerful activities, exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances.
* **Saturday 25 August 2018**, **a**[**Festival of Families**](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/Programme/Festival-of-Families), comprising a reflective concert style event within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith will be shared by families from all continents.
* **Sunday 26 August 2018**, WMOF2018 will close with a [**solemn Eucharistic Celebration**](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/Programme/Final-Mass), that will gather thousands of people from Ireland and all over the world.

This important and joyful international gathering will be preceded by a period of catechesis/faith education, which has been prepared by the Church in Ireland for use by local parishes and across the world. [The *Amoris: Let’s talk Family! Let's Be Family!* Programme](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/Resources/Amoris-Programme)is an interactive multimedia platform of catechetical resources that will be available through our website and a dedicated app. An [official prayer](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/About/Official-Prayer), [logo](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/About/About-our-Logo), [icon](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/About/Icon)and [hymn](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en-IE/About/Hymn)have also been especially prepared for WMOF2018, as key elements of the journey of preparing for the event.

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