

A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY

Saturday 3 February

From 9am or so there will be music playing in the foyer of St. Mary's College.

Those who have registered will pick up any relevant documentation etc.

Tea/coffee and biscuits/scones will be available from 9.15 – 9.50.

10am – Morning Prayer (with singing) to be led by a family from St. Mary's parish, Creggan.

Bishop McKeown will speak.

10.45am – People will be asked to gather in groups (allocated at random), having previously been asked to consider the following questions: Why are you attending this celebration of family? What are your hopes and aspirations for it? What can you offer to the celebration, and to family ministry in your parish/diocese?

11.30am – Gráinne Doherty will speak on “Amoris Laetitia” and the vision of Pope Francis. Followed by Gathering 2 for discussion (with questions provided by Gráinne) and feedback.

1.30pm – Lunch – Ceolán traditional music group will play in the foyer/assembly.

2.30pm – Gerard Gallagher will speak on reaching out to the youth of today, followed by Gathering 3 – questions (provided by Gerard), discussion, feedback.

4.30 pm – Fr. Johnny Doherty will speak on the Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage and Family Life, hoping to promote it throughout the diocese.

5.15 pm – Delegates to gather in parish groups to discuss the question: where do we go from here? (Tea/coffee etc. available ?)

6 pm – Mass – Chief Celebrant and Homilist – His Excellency the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo.

Gráinne Doherty is a native of the parish of Moville. She is a theologian, and has lectured in All Hallows and has worked as Director for Pastoral Development in the diocese of Raphoe. Most recently she gave a nine session course on “Amoris Laetitia” in the parish of Ardmore, Derry.

Gerard Gallagher is a native of Strabane. Married, with young children, he lives in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, and works as Pastoral Co-Ordinator in the Archdiocese of Dublin. He has written a number of books and articles.

Fr. Johnny Doherty is a native of Carndonagh, and is a member of the Redemptorist Order. He has given a large number of parish retreats around the country, and has worked with ACCORD. He’s the Director of “Love is for Life” and the founder of “The Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage and Family Life” which is already active in a number of parishes in the diocese of Derry.

Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo was born in Kano, Nigeria, in 1956. A priest of the dioceses of Onitsha and Nnewi, he has served a Papal Nuncio in Central African Republic, Chad, Dominican Republic and as Apostolic Delegate to Puerto Rico. On 13 May 2017 Pope Francis appointed him as Nuncio to Ireland.