

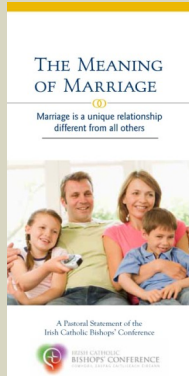


The Meaning of Marriage

Newsletter for dioceses and parishes

Issue 8 for Sunday 10 May 2015, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Bishops' pastoral statement: *The Meaning of Marriage*



Please read the full text of *The Meaning of Marriage* which is available in English, Irish and Polish on meaningofmarriage.ie



‘Marriage has been inscribed in creation’s design by God, and, by his grace, countless Christian men and women have lived married life fully. Marriage is an act of faith in God’s plan for humanity and an act of selfless love.’

Pope Francis
6 May 2015

Produced by the Catholic Communications Office of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference. See www.catholicbishops.ie

Extract from the Prayer by Pope Francis for the Synod on the Family

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God’s plan.
Amen.

Marriage is a total communion of life and of love with God of the married couple in their family life

Women and men find companionship in marriage, where they complement each other, not because they are the same but because they are different.

Their marriage is not just for themselves or for the children they may have. The family is the church in the home. The bride and groom are consecrated, and as a married couple living their vocation, they enrich the whole community, building up the Church with their love as husband and wife. In procreating and rearing children, they live the beauty of love, fatherhood and motherhood and they have the dignity of participating in God’s creative work.

As Catholics, it is not sufficient for us to talk about the importance of family. We also have a responsibility to do all that we can do to offer practical support for marriage and family in our parish communities, in our liturgies and our pastoral action and as individual members of society, through our social and political actions.

From *The Meaning of Marriage* pastoral statement, see the full text on meaningofmarriage.ie

Website: www.meaningofmarriage.ie
Twitter: @marriagesmatter and on FB.

‘Care for the Covenant of marriage’ - Archbishop Eamon Martin

How have we got ourselves into the situation that when people stand up to guard the dignity of difference between a man and woman, and speak for the traditional definition of marriage, they are often portrayed as being against freedom, or against equality? How is it that many people won’t even raise these issues in their families and workplaces for fear of being ridiculed or condemned as homophobic? Could we not expect at least some of our legislators to engage in public discussion on both sides?

Message on the Marriage Referendum, 2 May 2015.



‘Marriage in the Constitution is linked with the family’ - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

You cannot take one article of the Constitution in isolation. Marriage is not simply about a wedding ceremony or about two people being in love with each other. Marriage, in the Constitution, is linked with the family and with a concept of family and to the mutuality of man and women which is the fundamental foundation for the family as it exists in the constitution today.

Address to Diocesan Communications Officers, 6 May 2015.