

## Prayer

O God, who were pleased to give us  
the shining example of the Holy Family,  
graciously grant that we may imitate them  
in practicing the virtues of family life  
and in the bonds of charity,  
and so, in the joy of your house,  
delight one day in eternal rewards.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen



**Our Catholic faith and the teaching of the Church enable us to affirm the truth about marriage and family:**

We believe that the family is the foundation of society and the common good.

We believe that prayer and the life of faith sustain marriage and family as the domestic Church.

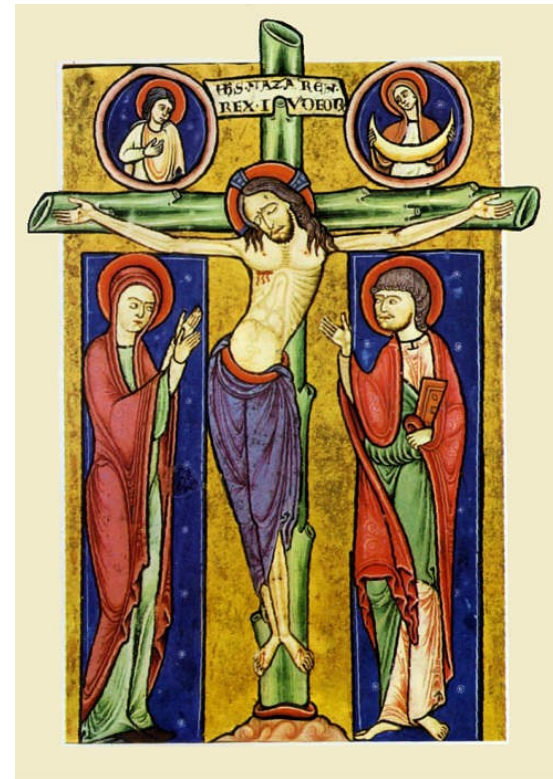
We believe that the Lord is present in the joys and struggles of spouses and families.



## THE CALL, THE JOURNEY AND THE MISSION

An Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales to Reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life

# Mary and John at the foot of the Cross



## **Scripture: John 19:24-27**

So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfil what the scripture says, They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

## **Questions to ponder**

- What does this bring to mind in your own life experience?
- What is it like to stand and watch one you love suffer? Or to sit with one you love who is dying?
- What heart stretching experience do you bring?
- How do you experience God in all of this?

## **Bishops’ Question**

**In what way, through the abiding presence of God, is your family ‘salt of the earth and light to the world’ and a place of and for handing on our faith?**

***Record your responses***