



## **A FAMILY GROUP IS:**

**A Family:** Somewhere we can share laughter and tears, ups and downs, food and fun through thick and thin

**Where everybody is welcome:** inclusive and accepting, respecting differences: a family for all

**A Movement:** God's love, in action

**About People and the Community:** building a sense of parish in the community; community in the parish

## **WELCOME TO YOUR FAMILY GROUP**

This is quite a remarkable adventure On which you have embarked. It is exciting because of all the heartening and supportive relationships that will grow in your Family Group. At the same time it can be a little frightening, because you are starting out on a journey with people who, at this stage, are still strangers to you. In either case you will find the rewards of joining a Family Group very worthwhile.

As you know, there is a leader couple of your Group. They are SERVANTS to the Group and are there to assist all members to get to know one another, to be aware of any needs in the group and know what is happening within the Group. They also keep in contact with the other leaders and the co-ordinators in the parish. Their job as leaders is most definitely NOT to be the organisers of all that happens. The adults in the group share the workload in the practical matters of your Family Group life.

One of the best ways you can support your leaders and each other is by regular attendance at the various gatherings that your fellow-members have arranged. It's great for bonding and morale when there is a good turn-out!

## Some Considerations:

- ❖ **Be sensitive to/grateful for differences in personality**  
These differences will sometimes frustrate you, but they will also provide great potential for the enrichment of the group.
- ❖ **It is the responsibility of the Group**  
Get the whole group involved in planning events and take it in turns to lead the organization of each monthly activity.
- ❖ **Help to organise a "Family Group Calendar"**  
This will ensure that important dates, birthdays and anniversaries can be recognised and perhaps celebrated.
- ❖ **Set up a Family Group Kitty**  
This will provide for such items as flowers for sick members or little gifts for very special occasions such as the birth of a new little member etc.
- ❖ **Plan events well in advance & make sure everyone has the dates in their diaries**  
Once they are in the calendar go ahead with monthly events no matter how many can/can't make it
- ❖ **The golden rules are "keep it simple" and "don't give up"**

## Some Suggested Family Group Activities:

Country walk (geared to the youngest and oldest)  
Picnic & rounders in the park  
Games night  
House Mass  
Weekend away (at least once per year)  
Shared lunch or supper  
Car rally/scavenger hunt  
Family Group anniversary Mass  
Dancing and singing activity  
Quiz night  
Barbecue  
Advent and Easter themed event  
Christmas or New Year party  
Simple catch up evening with supper

### Remember

All functions should be no cost or low cost - make sure nobody misses out because they can't afford to take part. The group belongs to everyone. Don't lose sight of the purpose of Family Groups - building a sense of the parish in the community and a sense of community in the parish.

**For more information please contact your Group Leaders on:**