



SEEKING GOD TOGETHER COMPANION RESOURCES SEASON 1 - CONCEPTION TO BIRTH

- Accompanying/supporting the family's relational life as a place where God dwells
- Parish and school welcoming, accompanying, serving, particularly those on the margins
- Building community as the Body of Christ

Across the dioceses of England & Wales the Catholic Church has a network of **Co-Ordinators for Marriage and Family Life Ministry**

<http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/diocesan-work/diocesan-family-ministry> And
<http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/FAMILIAS-Membership-Leaflet-2017-1.pdf>

Parish Family Groups support and care for all families – including all generations is a priority. The Family Group Movement seeks to create a true sense of community in fulfilment of Jesus Christ's command for love, friendship, and companionship in the lives of his disciples, and as experienced by the early Christian communities. E.g. Create family groups, and signpost expectant and new families to a family group

<http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/related-work/parish-family-groups>
<https://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Family-Group-Movement-Parish-Toolkit.pdf> (free toolkit for developing family groups in a parish)

SUPPORT FOR ADOPTIVE OR FOSTERING PARENTS

www.adoptionuk.org and in Northern Ireland:
<http://www.adoptionandfostering.hscni.net/> e.g. 6-day programme for parents 'A Piece of Cake'

SUPPORT FOR TODDLER GROUPS

www.1277.org.uk ecumenical national strategy, with many links and creative ideas to make the 1,277 days from birth to starting school count. For more ideas, see

Messy church in a catholic context, fresh ideas for building a Christ-centred community, and outreach to all those on the edge, Messy Church by Lucy More, ISBN 13: 978-1-84101-503-3 www.messychurch.org.uk

PARENTING PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

These are friendly and informative experiences, e.g:

- Family Caring Trust <http://www.familycaring.co.uk/>
- Parenting course resources <http://themarriagecourses.org/try-parenting/the-parenting-children-course>
- Care for the Family parenting <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/courses/parenting-courses-time-out>

SUPPORT WITH CONCEPTION AND NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

- <http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/what-we-do/marriage/family-planning-naturally>
- The Natural Family Planning Teachers' Association www.nfpta.org.uk
- NHS Family Planning Association information about Natural Family Planning www.fpa.org.uk/contraception-help/natural-family-planning
- Planning a Family Naturally www.catholicfamily.org.uk/what-we-do/marriage/family-planning-naturally and www.natural-family-planning.info
- The Billings Method: www.woomb.org/ www.thebillingsovulationmethod.org
- The Creighton Model: www.creightonmodel.com
- Naprotechnology: www.naprotechnology.com
- Websites with more detailed information and/or lists of teachers: Fertility UK www.fertilityuk.org and <http://lifefertilitycare.co.uk/>
- Couple to Couple League, supporting natural family planning <http://www.cclgb.org.uk/>
- Diocesan example: Hallam Caring Services <https://hallam-diocese.com/hallam-caring-services/family-focus/>

RESOURCES AND CONTACTS – DIGNITY AND PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN CHILD, SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, DIFFICULT PREGNANCY, AND LOSS OF A CHILD

- <https://www.csan.org.uk/about-csan/> Catholic Social Action Network active in many dioceses across England & Wales – for the flourishing of human dignity. Several member organisations are involved in counselling, especially amongst

the poorest of the poor

- <https://lifecharity.org.uk/our-services/pregnancy-matters/> for advice in pregnancy
- <http://formedforlove.com/> Theology of the Body symposia for educators and students
- <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/OCF/Commendation-Infant.pdf> Liturgical resource when a family has suffered miscarriage, a still birth or death of a new born
- 'Miscarriage and Early Baby Loss' by Breda Theakston, Redemptorist Publications (2018)
- <http://www.zoes-place.org.uk/> Baby hospice, end of life care for sick babies and their families

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT AND CARE OF WOMEN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONTEMPLATING ABORTION

<http://www.dayforlife.org/> Day for Life in the Catholic Church in England & Wales and <http://www.dayforlife.org/anscombe-bioethics-centre/> Day for Life, 50th Anniversary of the Abortion Act (1966) <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/vigils-of-prayer/>

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PRAYER

- <http://www.goodcounselnet.co.uk/> Practical support and advice to pregnant women
- An example of practical support for young pregnant women in the Diocese of Leeds, Gianna Project <http://www.catholic-care.org.uk/?s=Gianna>
- <http://www.lifecharity.org.uk/about> Life Charity Core services include Caring, Education, Housing and the Fertility care Programme. Life offer free, confidential information, counselling and support for women contemplating abortion, suffering after pregnancy loss or struggling to cope after abortion

POST ABORTION

- <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/> Offering retreats for healing after abortion
- <http://www.archtrust.org.uk/> Abortion recovery care and helpline

CSAS (Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service) are responsible for driving and supporting improvements in practice; primary role of co-ordination, advice and support in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults

<https://www.csas.uk.net/>

Accompanying a developing family spirituality, rituals and traditions at home, parish and school nurturing relationship with God in Christ through scripture, teaching, liturgy, sacraments

Couple/Family Prayer

- <https://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Prayasyougo>
- <http://faithful-families.blogspot.co.uk/>

Blessing of homes e.g. <https://www.catholicireland.net/the-little-book-of-christian-rituals-in-the-home/>

Blessings for all occasions: The Veritas Book of Blessings for All Occasions ISBN-13: 978-1847305176

Example of good practice, family catechesis, prayers with the very young, and baptism preparation: <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Marriage-and-Family-Life>

Liturgical resources from the Order of Christian Funerals, for death of a baby/child: <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/OCF/index.shtml>

COURSES PROMOTING CHURCH TEACHING ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY AND THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE FAMILY (some examples):

Maryvale Institute course – forming catechists to teach on marriage and family life <https://www.maryvale.ac.uk/catechesis-on-marriage-and-family.html>

Chaplaincy courses for pastoral care of families, via schools, hospitals/healthcare, prisons and other specific groups, e.g. Travellers' community at St Mary's University <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/home.aspx>

<http://www.brs-ccrs.org.uk/> **Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies**, with modules in Marriage & Family Life ministry.

www.luc.edu/ips/liverpool for details of the **Pastoral Ministry Diploma and Certificate** courses available across the northern dioceses of England & Wales

Caritas Social Action Network

<http://www.caritascare.org.uk/> for the many organisations and networks supporting pastoral care and formation of families