



## SEEKING GOD TOGETHER COMPANION RESOURCES SEASON 3 – CHILDHOOD YEARS

- 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 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)

**Forming a small home-parish-school (HPS) team** with representatives from each (HPS) for planning and conversation about strategies to strengthen and enrich the relationship between families and the parish, supporting parents in living and sharing faith with their children see suggestions at <http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/what-we-do/passing-on-the-faith>

**Chaplaincy in Schools - supporting children, their families, schools' staff**

Association of Chaplains in Education (England & Wales) to support spiritual and pastoral welfare, and professional development of chaplains; to promote chaplaincy in all schools; to provide network and communication channels with Bishops'

Conference departments and agencies; networking with other agencies

<http://acceuk.org.uk/>

**Range of ideas and material for growing in faith** for families with school-age children which can be used/ adapted for use in a Catholic setting

<http://www.going4growth.com/home>

**For welcome and inclusion of families** with children of all ages and range of ideas that can be adapted for use in a Catholic context, e.g. celebrating intergenerational events, using drama, craft, songs <http://www.messychurch.org.uk/>

**Supportive real-life stories** from other parents

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/family-life/parent-support>

## **PARENTING PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES**

These are friendly, informative and life-enriching experiences and can be run in parishes and schools. e.g.

- **Family Caring Trust programmes** <http://www.familycaring.co.uk/> Training for facilitators available. Includes Parenting and Sex, and Parent Assertiveness training.
- **Parenting course resources** <http://themarriagecourses.org/try-parenting/the-parenting-children-course> with DVD for self-run groups
- Care for the Family parenting <http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/courses/parenting-courses-time-out>
- **Parenting and education for relationships, see Learning to Love**, the Catholic Education document on relationships and sex education <http://www.cesew.org.uk/images/Learning2love.pdf.pdf>

## **SUPPORT FOR ADOPTIVE OR FOSTERING FAMILIES**

England & Wales: <https://www.adoptionuk.org/>

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

## **RELATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS (some examples)**

- **Listening skills** training via <http://www.acornchristian.org/> for training books/DVDs, and events)
- **Partners on a journey**, John Gottman, combines Catholic theology with

findings from research to inspire and support married couples

- **For your marriage (USCCB) website:**  
<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/encouragement/>
- **Catholic couple check-up** <https://www.catholiccouplecheckup.com>
- **Caná Week (Chemin Neuf Community)** to strengthen and encourage married relationship <http://www.chemin-neur.org.uk/en/home/our-programmes/cana-couple-and-families>
- **World Wide Marriage Encounter (UK)** <http://www.wme.org.uk>
- **Teams of our Lady** <http://www.teamsgb.org.uk>
- **Couple Alive – Family Caring Trust** [www.familycaring.org.uk](http://www.familycaring.org.uk)
- **Marriage MOT and counselling, Marriage Care**  
<http://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/relationship-counselling>
- **Support to help recovery following relationship breakdown**  
<https://www.restoredlives.org/>
- **For children caught up in vulnerable situations of loss through marriage breakdown** [www.RainbowsGB.org.uk](http://www.RainbowsGB.org.uk)

#### **Research: Understanding the harmful effects of parental conflict**

- <https://www.relate.org.uk/policy-campaigns/publications/way-we-are-now-state-uks-relationships-2015>
- Professor Gordon Harrold's research,  
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/press/press-releases/2013/may/how-family-conflict-affects-children>

#### **FOSTERING AND ADOPTION: POST ADOPTION AND AFTERCARE OF FAMILIES**

- <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/pathways/> and [www.adoptionuk.org](http://www.adoptionuk.org)
- support for adoptive or fostering parents e.g. in Diocese of Leeds  
<http://www.catholic-care.org.uk/> offer post adoption care for families.

#### **ROLE OF GRANDPARENTS**

[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com)

#### **SUPPORT WITH PARENTS OR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

- **St Joseph's Pastoral Centre** <http://www.stjoseph.org.uk/>
- **L'Arche** <https://www.larche.org.uk/> communities offering families support and love, and offering home to a family member with learning disabilities
- **Faith and Light:** Supporting all families with members with learning disabilities,

offering friendship, worship and celebration <http://www.faithandlight.org.uk/>

- **Parish and school guide/resources**, see <http://www.disabilitiesandfaith.org/resources/guidebooks/Disability-Manual-Churches.pdf>

### **SUPPORT OF FAMILIES LIVING WITH LOSS THROUGH ILLNESS, ACCIDENT, DEATH, OR DIVORCE, OR OTHER PAINFUL CIRCUMSTANCES**

- **Rainbows:** <http://www.rainbowsgb.org/> for use in schools or parish setting. Excellent facilitator training available
- **Bereavement support for children with special educational needs**
  - <http://childbereavementuk.org/support/families/reading-and-resources/special-educational-needs/>
- **Good Books for Tough Times**, for children 5-8, published by Partnership for Children [www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk](http://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk) recommended story books that help children with emotional development especially through tough times, including supporting a child or whole family when one member is seriously ill e.g. As Big as it gets, [www.winstonswish.org.uk](http://www.winstonswish.org.uk)

### **SUPPORT FOR ALL FAMILIES, INCLUDING FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY & IN CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES**

- **Catholic Children's Society** <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/mission-values/>
- **Diocesan example: 'Brunch Time' in school holidays:** parish provides breakfast and a packed lunch, or hot meal and snack for local pre-school and school children during the periods when they are not receiving school meals, as well as art, craft, music and dance activities. Parent/grandparent/carer have tea/coffee/toast E.g. St Joseph and St Alban, Liscard, Wallasey [www.stjosephandstalban.com](http://www.stjosephandstalban.com) and email [cc.donn@talktalk.net](mailto:cc.donn@talktalk.net) for information
- **Domestic Abuse** <http://www.cedar.uk.net/> for resources to help Catholic community grow in awareness of the issues surrounding domestic abuse *Updated Guide 2018: Catholics Experiencing Domestic Abuse*, National Board of Catholic Women, in collaboration with CBCEW/Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN)

### **Support For Families of Prisoners and Ex-Offenders**

- <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/> an independent Catholic prison charity serving families of prisoners, ex-offenders and prisoners, across England &

Wales

- Bishops Conference Prison Chaplains' Adviser  
<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Christian-Responsibility-and-Citizenship/Prison-Ministry>
- <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>

### Support for Families Living with Mental Health Problems

<http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/related-work/mental-health-project> - for parish mental health first-aid training. See the range of resources and links at [www.catholicmentalhealthproject.org.uk](http://www.catholicmentalhealthproject.org.uk)

### FAMILIES SERVING OTHERS

- **Micro-financing:** Encouraging parish/family engagement in micro-financing projects [www.lendwithcare.org](http://www.lendwithcare.org) .
- **Society of St Vincent de Paul:** For family/children involvement in parish or schools-based <https://www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies-0>

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

Many dioceses have programmes of family catechesis for parents and children promoting and **supporting the role of parents in passing on faith**, parents and children growing in knowledge and practice together

### RESOURCES SUPPORTING PARENTS IN BAPTISM PREPARATION (ANY AGE CHILDREN) AND SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- Diocesan example, using **family catechesis**:<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Marriage-and-Family-Life>  
<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Sacraments-of-Initiation>
- **The Wednesday Word:** Resources to support families growing in faith using the Sunday Lectionary [www.wednesdayword.org.uk](http://www.wednesdayword.org.uk)
- **Journey in Faith (OICA, formerly RCIA)** adapted for unbaptised children aged 7+ yrs. (OICA Part II) accompanying children and families, in a journey of initiation in an age/ability appropriate way. See the Rite itself for the principles and pathway, and Liturgy Office [Martin.Foster@CBCEW.Org.uk](mailto:Martin.Foster@CBCEW.Org.uk) for national RCIA network resources
- Resource example, 'I call you friends', National Project of Catechesis and RE

([www.mccrimmons.com](http://www.mccrimmons.com))

## CELEBRATING LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN IN PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

- **Guidelines** for celebrating liturgy of the Word with children, and information/ministry leaflets  
<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS/LOWC.pdf>  
<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/LOWC/>
- **Spiritual Garments, Julie McCann, handbook for preparing liturgy with children** <http://www.decanimusic.co.uk/product/spiritual-garments/>
- **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 <https://stpauls.org.uk/liturgy/catholic-liturgical-books-booklets/other-catholic-liturgical-books/the-veritas-book-of-blessings-for-all-occasions.html>
- **Counting our Blessings:** a CBCEW resource, using ‘real questions of life’ and scripture for conversations with parents/grandparents  
<http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk/related-work/counting-our-blessings>
- **Scripture and liturgical ‘story telling’** – with training and resources  
<https://www.godlyplay.uk/> for children – adults enjoy it too!  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GodlyPlayUK/> and International  
<https://www.facebook.com/GodlyPlay>

**Peer support inspiring parents in raising children in faith** Care for the Family *Kitchen Table Project* [www.kitchentable.org.uk](http://www.kitchentable.org.uk)

## MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

In event of a death in the family (child, or adult) see examples in Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, or Archdiocese of Liverpool for resources and support, contact via email: [spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk)

## BOOKS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN/FAMILY SPIRITUALITY (some examples)

- ***Faithful Families, Creating Sacred Moments at Home***, 2017 Book by Traci Smith (ISBN 978-0-827211-22-3 and blogspot  
<http://faithful-families.blogspot.co.uk/>
- ***Children’s Spirituality, What it is and why it matters***, 2013, Book by Dr.Rebecca Nye – resource mixing theory and good practice, childhood as a natural source of spirituality. Church House Publishing, ISBN 978 0 7151 4027

- ***Messy Church, Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-centred community***, by Lucy Moore, pack with ideas for all ages, easily adapted in a Catholic setting, to help those on the edge experience something of what it means to belong to a Christian community.
- ***Writing to God Kid's Edition*** by Rachel G Hackenberg, Paraclete Press [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com)
- ***Praying in colour Kid's Edition*** by Sybil MacBeth Paraclete Press [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com)
- ***Journey to the Heart, Centering Prayer for Children*** by Frank X Jelenek, Paraclete Press [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com)
- ***The Barnabas Family Bible*** by Martin Payne and Jane Butcher, 110 Bible Stories for Families to Share, Barnabas for Children/Bible Society [www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk)
- ***My Happy Heart, Prayer of the Heart*** by Gregory Ryan , helping children to pray, published by Mediamedia at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)
- ***A Community of Love, Spirituality of Family Life*** by David M Thomas ISBN 13:978-0-87946-327-4 Some copies available from CBCEW Marriage & Family Life Office email [Nina.MattielloAzadeh@CBCEW.Org.uk](mailto:Nina.MattielloAzadeh@CBCEW.Org.uk)

**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/>

#### **CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK**

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

#### **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 & 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

