



Parish Family

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH FAMILY GROUP

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2018 VOLUME 2

Groups

Who can join a Parish Family Group?

ANYONE! Old, Young, Catholic or not, Married, Single, Widowed or Divorced - EVERYONE!

Parish Family Groups do not replace existing friendship groups. They add a new dimension to parish life which allows non-Catholic partners, 'inactive' Catholics and those who do not feel they truly "belong", to become a part of our parish community. Parish Family Groups provide a non-threatening atmosphere, so this can happen in a gentle way. There is no catch, it's just doing what the church should do...or being what the church should be.

How much does it cost?

Parish Family Groups strive to meet 'heart' needs, rather than 'head' needs, and all Parish Family Group activities are aimed at 'no cost' or 'low cost', so that everyone can be included. Think about joining and tell your friends.

Proposed schedule

- **10th & 11th March**
Lizzie Wakeling, Parish Family Groups Project Officer will speak at all masses
- **Saturday 21st April**
Parish Family Groups Launch Session will be held in the Church Hall after 6 o'clock Mass

“A Family For All”

“It takes a whole village to raise a child” *African Proverb*

The motto of Parish Family Groups is

A FAMILY FOR ALL

It provides opportunities for individuals and families to belong to a small network who gather regularly for various outings. As you get to know one another, your ‘Family’ is able to offer practical Christian care and support, ‘In good times and in bad’.



Picture Courtesy St Mary's Parish, Ipswich

Do I have to be Holy?

You just have to be yourself. Many non-church attendees have found belonging to a Parish Family Group is a great way to become involved in the faith life of their family. Groups provide a non-threatening environment for non-church going partners and friends.

What can I give to a Parish Family Group?

Yourself! You can give your friendship, support and time to other members of your group. You just have to be yourself. You can sit down and talk, share and listen to others. What you do doesn't really matter. It is you that matters. As with your own family, sometimes you need to make an extra effort. You might not feel like participating but you might just be what someone else needs.

**The Diocese of
Arundel & Brighton**
Diocesan Pastoral Team
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Where does it come from?

The Family Groups Movement was first identified as a valuable resource for parish community building during the Listening 2004 consultation. In 2007 the Bishops' Conference's Marriage & Family Life Project Office invited Fr Peter McGrath to help launch several Family Group parish pilots. Family Groups are now running in 17 parishes across England and Wales. The Groups, established between 2007 and 2017, span the dioceses of Cardiff, East Anglia, Liverpool, Nottingham, Salford, Shrewsbury, Southwark and Westminster as well as Arundel and Brighton. A National Steering Group was convened in October 2014 to establish foundations for the Movement in England and Wales and to support and promote the development of new Parish Family Group pilots. The Steering Group is run by the Family Groups and supported by regional FAMILIAS (Association for Catholic Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Ministry) representatives and a Chaplain.



The Family Group parishes use their dedicated blog *Family Groups in England and Wales* as an online platform for sharing news, pictures, ideas and inspiration. <http://>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Lizzie Wakeling
Parish Family Groups Project Officer
DABCEC, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley RH10 6RP
email: elizabeth.wakeling@dabnet.org
tel: 01293 651155