



Parish Family

ST MICHAELS'S PARISH FAMILY GROUP

SUNDAY 4TH MARCH 2018 VOLUME 3

Groups

Parish Family Groups

Date Claimer

Next weekend 10th and 11th March, Lizzie Wakeling, Parish Family Groups Project Officer, will speak at all masses about the Parish Family Groups concept and give everyone the opportunity to register their interest.

Proposed schedule

- **10th & 11th March**
Lizzie Wakeling, 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Parish Family Groups Project Officer
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“A Family For All”

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF PARISH FAMILY GROUPS?

Get to know other members of your Parish.

Support each other’s joys and sorrows.

Build a Christian Community.

Involve our children in our Christian sharing directly or indirectly by our example.

WHO WILL BE IN MY GROUP?

All sorts of people can make up a Parish Family Group. A group is made up of 30-40 members, with a cross section of ages, including children of the same age – like an extended family. Everyone is welcome to join, from babies to grandparents. Parish Family Groups reflect the diversity of the parish they are drawn from. Everyone has so much to offer.

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. Family Groups provide a non-threatening environment for non-church going partners and friends.

What can I give to a 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.

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 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://familygroupsendlandwales.blogspot.co.uk/>

The Diocese of
Arundel & Brighton
Diocesan Pastoral Team
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