



Marriage & Family Life E-Bulletin No 40 May 2010

Marriage & Family Life Project Office,
Department of Christian Responsibility & Citizenship,
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

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Diary Dates

Workshops on Dementia & Spirituality, offered by Caritas-Social Action Network (CSAN) at various locations. May 25th (London) and May 28th (Salford). [Further details](#)

National Family Week: May 31st – June 6th [Further details](#).

Grandparents Pilgrimage July 24th Walsingham. Visit the website for more information.

Project Resources available:

[Home is a Holy Place: DVD, Prayer Cards, Large Print Prayer Cards](#)

What is Life Like? A series of leaflets to support and welcome families experiencing challenging circumstances. £2 a set or free



Friends of FAMILIAS Annual Gathering

Families play a critical role in the forming of all vocations, and 'should take particular care when a child has a vocation to religion'. But what does this look like in practice? How have our priests been formed by their families and how do their families continue to sustain them in their vocation? The annual gathering of FAMILIAS friends and members on May 18th 2010 at Vaughan House, Westminster reflected on these and other questions with the help of Frs. Daniel O'Leary, Paul Grogan, Moses Igbo, Paul Williment, Graham Preston and Graham Smith. This was a memorable day, both moving and thought-provoking. It concluded with Mass concelebrated with Archbishop Vincent Nichols in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral. A fuller report will follow in the next MFL e-bulletin.



National Family Week

[National Family Week](#) runs from May 31st to June 6th. Click the link for more information and [here](#) for the work we did last year on this theme. We have two further leaflets for parishes created by the Diocese of Hallam on file (awaiting upload) so please [contact Elizabeth](#) if you would like copies.

Job Opportunity: Communications Officer

The Marriage and Family Life Projects Office at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is seeking an experienced and enthusiastic information or media professional to help us share with various stakeholders a multitude of stories and good practices arising from our cutting edge support for pastoral care of family life within the Catholic community. The successful applicant will be a creative thinker with excellent writing skills, able to translate practitioner experiences into engaging and persuasive stories, communicating these through web-pages, print-based materials and e-newsletters for a wide range of audiences at minimum financial cost. This job is suitable for home-working though attendance at monthly team-meetings in London is required and occasional travel within England and Wales may be necessary. [Further details](#)

Job Opportunity: Projects Adviser

The Marriage and Family Life Projects Office at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is seeking an experienced and enthusiastic project manager or community development professional

[online.](#)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Lord, we gather together in our family today, as other families gather in the Parish and the Diocese, to open our ears to hear your word and our hearts to respond with generosity, that we may grow to know you, to love you and to serve you more faithfully in this coming year. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Opening prayer of a family liturgy included in Preparation Materials for Families distributed in advance of the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1981. (Origin uncertain!)

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to continue to provide a systematic programme of advice and support to funded diocesan projects across England and Wales which are strengthening local capacity for pastoral care of marriage and family life within the remit of the Celebrating Family grants programme, and to enable the projects to demonstrate success using a variety of widely recognised criteria. The successful applicant will be a highly motivated self-starter with a record of success in effective delivery and evaluation of community-based projects and in the mentoring and motivating of adults. This job is suitable for home-working though attendance at monthly team-meetings in London and regular travel within England and Wales is required. [Further details.](#)

Catholic Marriage Preparation Survey 2010



The Catholic Marriage Preparation Survey has been live for nearly five months now and we still have a great deal to do to reach all providers of marriage preparation and all couples being prepared this year in order to invite them to contribute to the survey. Can you please help us by

- Placing a link to the survey on your parish website – [get logos and html text here](#)
 - Placing a notice in your parish bulletin – [get samples here](#)
 - Distributing prayer cards to engaged couples – [information here](#)
- The survey aims to reach *all* those who assist couples to prepare for their marriage immediately before the wedding, whether this is only a matter of completing the pre-nuptial enquiry forms or of providing a lengthier and more formal programme of preparation. [Read more here.](#)

Catholic Grandparents' Association

Bishop John Hine, Chair of the Bishops' Committee for Marriage and Family Life met last month with Mrs Catherine Wiley, founder of the Catholic Grandparents' Association to learn more about the work of the Association and to explore ways in which the Project Office might be of help. A major aspect of the Association's work right now is the organisation of a pilgrimage to Walsingham for grandparents and their grandchildren. This will take place on July 24th this year. "The purpose of this pilgrimage is to give honour and thanks to St Joachim and St Anne, parents of Mary, grandparents of Jesus and all grandparents in the world today, for all they have done for us down through the ages particularly in the transmission of the faith", said Mrs Wiley. For an electronic copy of the pilgrimage poster and a copy of the Pope's Prayer for Grandparents please visit the CGA website or [contact the Project Office.](#)

