



FAITH AND FAMILIES

How do we nurture
and support the
domestic church?

A family evangelisation forum

(ONE DAY IN EACH REGION SAME PROGRAM FOR EACH DAY)

- NORTHERN – TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015
- PENINSULA – WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2015
- CENTRAL COAST – THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015

an initiative of the
PARISH SUPPORT UNIT



“Understanding the family as a domestic church is, therefore, fundamental for the future of the Church and for the new evangelisation. Families are the first and best messengers of the gospel of the family.” Cardinal Walter Kasper “The Gospel of the Family” Paulist Press 2014.

The family is described as the ‘domestic church’ and the ‘school of humanity’. The family is the place where faith is celebrated, lived and shared enabling children to grow in faith and come to a knowledge of what it means to live the Christian life. Whilst we may be aware of the family’s foundational role in bringing individuals to relationship with God we may not be aware of how we can equip and resource families to fulfil this responsibility.

“In the family we learn how to love, to forgive, to be generous and open, not closed and selfish. We learn to move beyond our own needs, to encounter others and share our lives with them. That is why it is so important to pray as a family! That is why families are so important in God’s plan for the Church!”
(Pope Francis 16 January 2015 Manila, Philippines)

Bishop Peter reminds us that “Good evangelisation is domestic not institutional; it is family oriented.”
(Installation homily 12 December 2014)

Within our parish communities, we need to recognize how we can best support families as they deepen their relationships and face the challenges of everyday life. Pope Francis in ‘The Joy of the Gospel’ informs us of the role of the parish. *“An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives, it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.” EG#24.*

The work of evangelisation begins within our own families – in our homes – and also within the spiritual family, our parish. The purpose of this Forum is to explore together how parishes can support families in their calling to live, pass on and share their faith, given the pastoral challenges that affect families today.

The Parish Support Unit invites those involved or interested in Marriage and Family Ministry such as clergy, parish staff, catechists, parish marriage and family network contacts, family ministers, parents and grandparents and all those who minister with children and families to join in this family evangelisation forum.

This three day (one day repeated in each region) family evangelisation forum will feature the same program for each day:

- An introduction from **Bishop Peter A Comensoli**;
- Keynote address by **Dr Aoife McGrath**;
- A variety of workshop streams highlighting specific ministry areas which promote and support marriage and family life;
- There is **no cost** to participants. **BYO lunch** (coffee, tea and light refreshments provided);
- Workshop Topics may vary according to local demand – workshops will be offered according to registration numbers;
- CatholicCare support services and resources will also be on display



Keynote Address:

Dr Aoife McGrath 'Art of Accompaniment' Walking with Families and Young People on their Faith Journey.

This keynote address (on all three days) will take a closer look at what Pope Francis has called "the art of accompaniment" and how this might be applied in pastoral settings. (Evangelii Gaudium 169-173).

DR AOIFE MCGRATH from County Clare on the West Coast of Ireland is an adjunct professor in Pastoral Theology at the Pontifical University, Maynooth, Ireland and has worked as a lay pastoral worker in the Irish dioceses of Waterford and Lismore. She completed a PhD in theology with a focus on marriage before moving into her current field of pastoral theology, where she holds a Masters.

She has been involved in a variety of parish ministries and has described her role as "contributing to the life and work of the parish, which involves initiating, training, supporting, and resourcing various teams in Liturgical, Pastoral, and Formation ministries."

Dr McGrath has recently been working as a Research Assistant with the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference and is currently working for the Christian Research Association.

Workshop Topics - Parishes and families growing together

The topics are aimed at providing accessible and flexible ideas and resources for supporting parish communities in promoting family evangelisation. Workshop presenters are members of the PSU experienced in these areas of ministry.

1. **Opportunities across the family lifecycle for Family Evangelization**

Carole Gan, Director Parish Support Unit

There are many opportunities where families will connect/reconnect with the parish community. What and when are these opportunities? What ministries, programs and resources are available to support parishes at these times?

2. **Online Family Ministry Resources for parishes** (on website and others)

Veronica Holohan, Regional Coordinator

This practical workshop examines online resources currently available to parishes across many areas of Family Ministry. In particular, these resources can assist parishes to reach out to contemporary families not presently engaged with the worshipping community. Come along and gather some new ideas to help families journey deeper into their faith.

3. **Building a Better Marriage – ways to tighten the knot**

Trish McKenzie, Regional Coordinator

A variety of means is available in the diocese to support those couples preparing for marriage and those married couples who wish to keep investing in this Sacrament. This workshop will cover the opportunities for Marriage Preparation and Marriage Enrichment.

4. **Families and the Bible – Pina Bernard, Special Projects Officer**

The Bible is often an untapped resource in family spiritual life. Through reading the bible adults and children can relate better to Jesus and hear God's voice speaking through the text – a skill that can be used throughout life. This workshop will explore ways in which the Bible can be read and engaged with in families, as well as looking at suitable resources, in particular for children.

5. **A Family Friendly Parish – Janette Davidson, Diocesan Coordinator of Family Life**

Parishes strive to be a 'family of families' but how can this best be achieved. We examine ways a parish can be more sensitive to family needs and more welcoming to the many shapes and experiences of family.

6. **Role of Grandparents in family life today – Alison Newell, Diocesan CCD Coordinator**

Grandparents are the keepers of the story in families. Children often learn the meaning of life, love and family from their grandparents. Increasingly, Catholic grandparents are called upon to pass on the gift of faith to their grandchildren. With love, patience and understanding they give children a sense of who they are, where they came from and what being a member of a Catholic family truly means. Together, we will explore the important role of grandparents in family life and in the life of the Church.

REGISTRATION FORM

Download or complete the form below and send it to registrations@dbb.org.au

DATE & TIME	ADDRESS	PREFERENCES	WORKSHOP TOPICS
NORTHERN			
Tuesday 24 March 2015 Registration from 8.45am 9am – 3.30pm	Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Road, PENNANT HILLS (vehicle access off City View Road)	First Preference	
		Second Preference	
		Third Preference	
		Fourth Preference	
OR			
PENINSULA			
Wednesday 25 March 2015 Registration from 8.45am 9am – 3.30pm	Parish Centre St Kieran's Manly Vale, North Harbour Parish 2 King Street, MANLY VALE	First Preference	
		Second Preference	
		Third Preference	
		Fourth Preference	
OR			
CENTRAL COAST			
Thursday 26 March 2015 Registration from 8.45am 9am – 3.30pm	Parish Hall Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 239–243 The Entrance Rd, THE ENTRANCE	First Preference	
		Second Preference	
		Third Preference	
		Fourth Preference	

If one of your preferences is not available in your preferred region would you be interested in attending that workshop in another region?	Yes / No
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PROGRAM

8.45 am	Registration
9.00 am	Gather and Opening Prayer Introductions, purpose and process for day
9.15 am	Welcome and Introduction Bishop Peter
9.30 am	Keynote Address: Part 1 'Art of Accompaniment' Walking with Families and Young People on their Faith Journey (EG)
11.00 am	Morning Tea
11.20 am	Keynote Address: Part 2
12.20 pm	Lunch
1.00 pm	Workshops Round 1
2.00 pm	Workshops Round 2
3.00 pm	Summary
3.30 pm	Close

RSVP 19 MARCH 2015 by email at registrations@dbb.org.au

If you would prefer to download a paper registration form (access hard copy) please complete and mail/fax/email to us, Registrations Office, Diocese of Broken Bay, PO Box 390, THE ENTRANCE NSW 2261

www.dbb.org.au

Fax No. 02 9847 0501

For more information please call Janette Davidson, Diocesan Coordinator - Family Life Ministries

0409 074 908 or janette.davidson@dbb.org.au