

Marriage Preparation

We offer a process of Marriage Preparation in the parish which is led by couples of the parish, and has been very well received over a number of years by those preparing for marriage. Details are available from the priest helping you prepare your paperwork. However what we offer will not suit everyone, for a variety of reasons. There are a variety of processes of preparation available in the diocese and elsewhere to supplement or replace the preparation offered here and you are free to choose one of them if they better suit your circumstances. Do be sure to let the priest assisting you with the paperwork know which option you are choosing.

Courses often very quickly get booked up. This is one reason why the diocese requires six months notice of intention to get married, so that couples can take part in a process of formal preparation in good time before their wedding day.

St John's Wood Marriage Preparation Programme

Marriage preparation in our parish has two principal components. The first is a series of meetings with a priest of the parish which provide opportunities of the Catholic theology of marriage, spiritualities of marriage and some of the practical aspects of preparing the wedding service. The second is a day session, repeated on two or three occasions during the year – and open to about ten couples at a time.

This day session is led by parishioners, one of the couples on our marriage preparation team. Through a variety of conversations and exercises they help participants to consider together what their hopes are for their marriage, what challenges they face, and what strengths they are bringing to their marriage which will help them best address any challenges.

The next parish marriage preparation day will take place in our parish hall on Saturday 6th November 2010. There will not be another such day until March 2011, so those who are unable to make the November day and are intending to marry before Easter 2011 will need to make other arrangements for their marriage preparation course.

Courses in other parishes:

For details of currently available course please visit the Diocesan website: [www.rcdow.org.uk/pastoral affairs](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/pastoral-affairs) and follow links for 'Marriage and Family Life'.

ENGAGE

A new kind of marriage preparation drawing from Pope John Paul II's 'Theology of the Body', usually presented by mentor married couples. See www.engage.org.au for curriculum and other information. For details of parishes in Westminster offering this programme please visit the Diocesan website.

MARRIAGE CARE AND ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Organisations with a Catholic ethos providing marriage preparation courses at various UK centres at weekends. They get booked up for months ahead so you need to register early.

MARRIAGE CARE

One-day courses (Saturdays). London courses held at Marriage Care National Office, 1 Blythe Mews, London W14 0NW – 020 7792 2199 marriagecarelondon@lineone.net or

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Bridie Collins 020 7371 1341; or at Barnet Centre: Church of Christ the King, Peace Close, Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4HE – Anna Tulin 020 8441 6975. All information http://www.marriagecare.org.uk/getting_married.php

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Marriage Preparation weekends at various UK centres, sometimes residential. Local courses are usually at the Niland Centre, Bushey WD23 4EE and All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney AL2 1AF. All information is on <http://www.wvme.org.uk/EngagedEncounter/EngagedEncounter.htm>

ON-LINE COURSE

A web-based course for couples with time or distance constraints. This will sometimes be the only practical way for some couples to undertake a form of preparation acceptable to the Diocese of Westminster.

Originating from the Diocese of Denver USA and with an official imprimatur from their Archbishop, this course is recognised by the Diocese of Westminster Pastoral Board. All information is on www.catholicmarriagepreponline.com

LONDON FERTILITY CARE CENTRE

Some of the above courses will explore how to take responsibility for fertility and family planning. Others do not. Couples wishing to learn more are encouraged to contact the London Fertility Care Centre.

For further information please contact Nicole Parker, FertilityCare Practitioner, 21a Soho Square, London W1D 4NR. Tel: 020 7437 0892 Email: nicole@fertilitycarecentre.co.uk

Further Information

LENGTH OF COURSES

All the courses mentioned here vary greatly in length and presentation, sometimes including Mass and time to socialise. All fulfil the requirements of the Catholic Church

FEES

Some parish courses are free but generally fees vary from £20 per couple to £200, to cover all the costs involved in presenting the course. They are non-profit-making and course presenters give their time generously and freely. Any fee is a small price to pay compared to your other wedding costs and the effect will be life-enhancing and far more enduring than the cake!

CERTIFICATES

If your course does not provide a certificate, please ask the course leader for a letter as proof of attendance.

*Although every effort is made to keep this sheet up to date you may well find additional events and dates listed on the diocesan website:
<http://www.rcdom.org.uk/pastoralaffairs/marriageandfamilylife/>*

Fr Allen Morris

15th August 2011