



31 May – 6 June 2010

## Ideas for Catholic Parishes

**National Family Week can be used as an opportunity to showcase your work - how your parish supports families, offers activities and services for families, develops family-friendly practices, or engages in other ways in the promotion of family life. Run activities as a fundraising exercise, to publicise your work, or to simply have fun with your parishioners and local community.**

### Run an event

- Host an event during National Family Week such as:
  - A Picnic – ideally on the Bank Holiday Monday 31st May
  - A Story Time, such as a local celebrity reading their favourite children's story or a family orientated fable, putting on a play, pairing up with a deaf charity and showing 'signed stories' – ideally on Wednesday 2nd June
  - A Family Week House Party such as a family disco in your church hall – ideally on Friday 4th June
  - A Sports Day – ideally on Saturday 5th June
- A general family fun day or fete, encouraging intergenerational participation from the parishioners and the wider community
- Hold a family Mass and bidding prayers celebrating the importance of families
- Screen a family-orientated film (examples include Ice Age, Toy Story or Mary Poppins)
- Run a Family sing-along session or concert encouraging all ages and all abilities to join in
- Run a serious debate on family issues either for the public, or for people working within the family arena (charities, local councils, children's centres etc.)

### Top tips

- ✓ Run your event to raise funds for either your parish or for a local family-orientated charity.
- ✓ You can download event toolkits from our Partner Zone area of the website for advice and inspiration.



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**Support nearby events**

- If you can't run your own event, encourage your parishioners to volunteer or attend a local event in your area or collaborate with other local churches
- A number of Local Authorities will be organising events; perhaps you could have a stand or run an activity at one of these?

**Top tips**

- ✓ The Partner Zone will include regional notice boards to encourage not-for-profit partners to share ideas, learn from others and find contacts.

**Support The Week through internal or external communications**

- Encourage your parishioners to bring family members to a social activity during National Family Week.
- Find the local Family of the Year - an exceptional family that stands out for their courage, convictions, charity work, adventurous spirit etc. The local winners can then be put forward for the national award
- Through any material you may produce (newsletters, bulletin and leaflets) announce National Family Week and your involvement
- Put up a National Family Week poster on the notice boards or in the community hall

**Other**

- Encourage your congregation to visit people within the community who do not have their family living close by

**National Family Week is a great opportunity for parishes to celebrate and show unequivocal appreciation for families – in all their joys and struggles, whatever their stage of life.**

**For further information and ideas please contact  
The National Family Week Partnerships Team on 020 7871 0189 or  
visit [www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk)**