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<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/>  
<https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/>

**Twitter**

## Events

**In the Footsteps of St Thomas More** – 11<sup>th</sup> July: meeting at 9.30am for Mass at 10am at Holy Redeemer & St Thomas More at Cheyne Row followed by a guided tour of places associated with St Thomas More in Chelsea before visiting Tyburn Convent, then heading over to Harlesden to the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. Please bring a packed lunch. (Social distancing measures observed) Price: £15 (Concessions). Register with Fr Andrew: [andrewchamiec@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewchamiec@rcdow.org.uk)

**‘Marriage Care’ Counselling Services** – *Marriage Care*, established in 1946 in response to the pressure on family relationships following the end of the Second World War, now offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of ‘Lockdown’. Further information: <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>

**‘Retrouvaille’ – a lifeline for married couples** – offers a Virtual Programme to help couples under pressure, commencing with a *Retrouvaille Weekend*: Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> & Fri 31<sup>st</sup> July (evenings) and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August (days). For further information, please call in confidence and without obligation 0788 729 6983.

Website: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Email: [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com)

**Marriage and Family Life Survey** - we are keen to assess the current needs of parishes with regard to our ministry to couples and families. Please complete this survey (4 minutes) as soon as you can, which will help inform the ways in which we can resource and support you: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K5Z55N8>

## ‘Learn from Me’ – *Catechesis & Mission Formation Programme*

for all involved in parish ministry, and for all who desire to go deeper into their faith and understanding. Developed in partnership with the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, the ‘Learn from Me’ distance-learning, formation programme includes:

- Maryvale Institute - Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry, one-year part-time
  - Maryvale Institute - Certificate in Catechesis, two-year part-time - **currently accepting applications for October 2020 start.**
  - Maryvale Institute - Catechesis on Marriage & Family, 6-month part-time
- For further information, contact Anna Dupelycz. Bursaries may be available. [annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk) See website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/learn-from-me---catechesis-and-mission---formation-programme/>

## Parishes in Touch

A key challenge voiced by parishes in lockdown is the continuation of Sacramental Programmes, especially for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Practical difficulties have meant that initially at least, many programmes suddenly stopped. There has been a sense of loss with plans delayed, expectations dashed. But now with determination and creativity, they are moving forward again with new vision and a new tool – the internet. The internet is helping to strengthen connections at many different layers, to build small communities with common goals, and to involve those who have been on the margins. The internet has become the new church porch, welcoming and encouraging, accessible to everyone. Parents’ role as the ‘first and best of teachers in the faith’, in daily living as well as in preparation for the sacraments, is more active. It is a learning process, and through listening to the many voices brought together by the different media, new perspectives of what parish means for the future are emerging.

**TIP:** Share this bulletin with your parish team – keep everyone connected and