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PARISH LINKS

Parish Links (PLs): The parish link scheme offers every Catholic in the parish the option of a personal, visible link with their parish family.

- The KIT team invites parishioners to volunteer to be a link for their neighbourhood.
- Each PL volunteer holds information about parish events, programmes and activities, together with contact details, all supplied by the KIT team.
- Every Catholic household in their neighbourhood is given a magnetic fridge sticker, under which they insert the name and telephone number, and perhaps email address of their PL. So whenever they need information or help from the parish they can go straight to their PL.
- All PLs are offered back up from the KIT team whenever it is needed.



The benefits can be far reaching: parish records can be kept up to date; the duties of the PL are minimal, requiring very little time for busy people, but at the same time it means that parishioners have a friendly, personal link with church if they wish and are quite free to ignore this if they choose to. It may be that in time some PLs may like to develop the link into a more personal contact such as carol singing at Christmas, perhaps a house Mass for a housebound neighbour, lifts to church, baby-sitting, or simple get-togethers. One idea is that the PL gathers the names of deceased relatives in their neighbourhood each November to be included in the November prayers for the dead. If the parish link plans to visit their Catholic neighbours they will need to be CRB checked. It is a very simple process these days and it has the advantage that PLs will be freer to respond.

2 Caveats

- The question of confidentiality: Never to repeat outside the team anything that is said in confidence by neighbours. Because PLs are coming from church it is sometimes easier for people to open their hearts, to talk about things they might not share anywhere else. If they ask for help of any kind, ask their permission to mention it to the priest or whoever can help them.
- Judging: The aim is always to welcome, respect, listen to and affirm. PLs may find neighbours whose lifestyle is very different from theirs, but their aim is never in any way to judge or criticize. PLs are there simply as messengers of love and care and to treat everyone they meet as valued members of their parish family, wherever they are on their faith journey.

Further information from: enquiries@kit4catholics.co.uk