



**Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**  
**Department for Social Justice**  
**BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

Dear Father,

*"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"*

**Alliance of Catholic Marriage Organisations**

August 2018 marked the launch of the Alliance of Catholic Marriage Organisations during the World Meeting of Families in Dublin; the coming together of five organisations (Catholic Marriage Care, Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille, Teams and Two-In-One Flesh) that between them have served the Church in England and Wales for nearly eight decades. And earlier this year I invited the Alliance to form a sub-committee of the Bishops' Committee for Marriage and Family Life; to support my episcopal responsibilities as Chair of that Committee.

**Supporting parish ministry**

You may be familiar with one or two of the organisations mentioned and indeed may be closely associated with them. However, my purpose for writing is to commend them to you as a whole group. The Alliance draws together different charisms and approaches with much to offer couples at every stage of their relationship. And together they form an invaluable and complimentary resource for parish ministry. Almost all their support is available in engaging online and webcam formats as well as face-to-face provision, restrictions permitting.

**Accompanying couples over a lifetime**

I am pleased to attach an updated version of their joint resource "*Accompanying couples over a lifetime*". This can be hosted on your website, and printed copies are available for display on parish notice boards. The Alliance website landing page ([www.acmo.org.uk](http://www.acmo.org.uk)) and links on their respective websites help couples find support whatever season they find themselves in.

As we continue to journey through the pandemic into a new and changing landscape the commitment of the Alliance in supporting marriage and family life ministry within each parish remains even stronger. If you would like further information please contact any member of the Alliance and they will be happy to help.

Yours devotedly in Christ.

+ David

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley

Bishop of Northampton and Chair of the Bishops' Committee for Marriage and Family Life

