



**Fr Michael Doody**, Vocations Director, Leeds.

"I find that being part of a Team has been a really valuable source of support for my ministry as a priest. The other couples are always able to listen and give an encouraging word to me and each other. It has also given me important insights into the joys and struggles of married couples and families trying to live out their Catholic Faith in the world today."

Spiritual Counsellor to Wetherby 3 Team

**Fr Christopher McBride**,  
St. Pio Friary, Bradford.

"It's a gift to be personally connected with a group of Catholic families who are sharing their lives with you. It's a joy to share their highs and lows and it's a great support to know that they are praying for you too."

Spiritual Counsellor to Wetherby 2 Team

**Deacon John Traynor**, St. Joseph's, Penketh

"As a Spiritual Counsellor, I never cease to be amazed at how Team members play out their Christian life in the world of family, friends and neighbours with really deep feelings of love and affection.

As a Team they show massive concern for each other. My ministry is strengthened by the love they show for each other. And for me."

Spiritual Counsellor to Warrington 3 Team

**ST. John Paul II , January 2003**

"I express my gratitude to the Spiritual Counsellors who make themselves available for you. They bring their competence and experience to your lay movement. By means of their collaboration, priests and couples learn to understand, appreciate and help one another"

**Pope Francis , 10th September 2015**

"I thank you, dear couples of the Teams of Our Lady, for being a support and encouragement to the ministry of your priests, who always find priestly joy, fraternal presence, emotional balance and spiritual paternity in their contact with your Teams and your families."



Teams in Britain are organised into Regions.  
Further information can be obtained from:

[NorthernBritain@teams.gb.org.uk](mailto:NorthernBritain@teams.gb.org.uk)

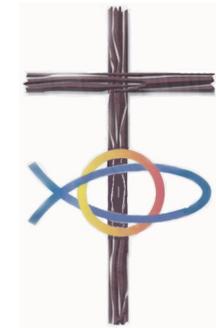
[CentralBritain@teams.gb.org.uk](mailto:CentralBritain@teams.gb.org.uk)

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## Priests and Religious



## are welcome too

- ◇ Support and be supported
- ◇ Time to listen and reflect
- ◇ Journey together

# Teams

## Support

Although a movement for Christian Married Couples, TEAMS has always sought the inclusion of a Priest, Deacon or Religious in each Team. They are an invaluable member of the Team, guiding and supporting couples, as they share, reflect, pray and study.

### Journeying Together

The role of the Priest or Religious as a Spiritual Counsellor is an essential feature of the TEAMS movement. They are journeying together in their two callings, affirming the paths they have chosen.

They support the couples as they share at Teams meetings and the couples not only listen to and support their Spiritual Counsellor, but also help him or her to understand, at a deeper level, the Sacrament of Marriage lived out in today's world.

### Spiritual Counsellor – An Onerous Role?

Whilst many Spiritual Counsellors are able to attend each monthly meeting, others will only be able to 'touch base' on a few occasions. Nevertheless, their support is greatly appreciated and welcomed by the Team.

## What do Priests say? ...

## Guidance

**Canon John Udris**, Spiritual Director, Oscot College

'Being a Spiritual Counsellor in TEAMS is one of the joys of my priesthood. It's a simple but powerful way of supporting each other in our vocations. I try to help encourage the couples in their marriages. They certainly affirm me in my priestly commitment.'

TEAMS Spiritual Counsellor in Northampton and Birmingham



**Fr Kieran Monahan OSB**, Master of Ceremonies & Chaplain to Support Staff Ampleforth Abbey.

"It has been a real joy and privilege to work with several couples as part of TEAMS. I have felt uplifted, listening and sharing with them the joys and challenges of life. There is no doubt in my mind that I have benefitted from their friendship and it has deepened my own life of faith. Gathering around a table to share a meal, breaking the Word with each other and praying – this for me is the essence of TEAMS and for that I am grateful."

Spiritual Counsellor for Ampleforth 4 Team

## Affirmation

**Father Andrew Burns, C.Ss.R.** Our Lady's, Bishop Eton, Liverpool

"As a member of TEAMS in Middlesbrough, I found myself in close touch with couples who are serious about their married relationship and their life in the Church. I had the opportunity to share the highs and lows of my life and ministry as a priest, while opening my heart to the highs and lows of the couples' lives; and through our sharing, and through our prayer together, I found a deeper commitment to my own vocation. Such a deep and personal sharing of our lives as couples and priests is a real treasure. I always gain much more than I can give.

I value the importance of such a lay led movement in the Church for the building of real Christian communities, priests and people together. We feed and encourage each other in the way of life God has chosen for us."

Former Spiritual Counsellor to Middlesbrough 1.