
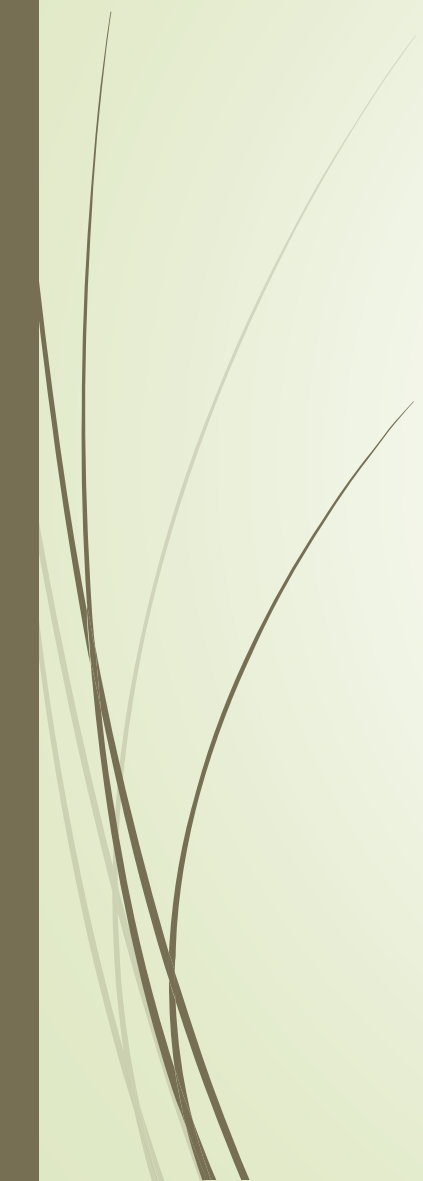

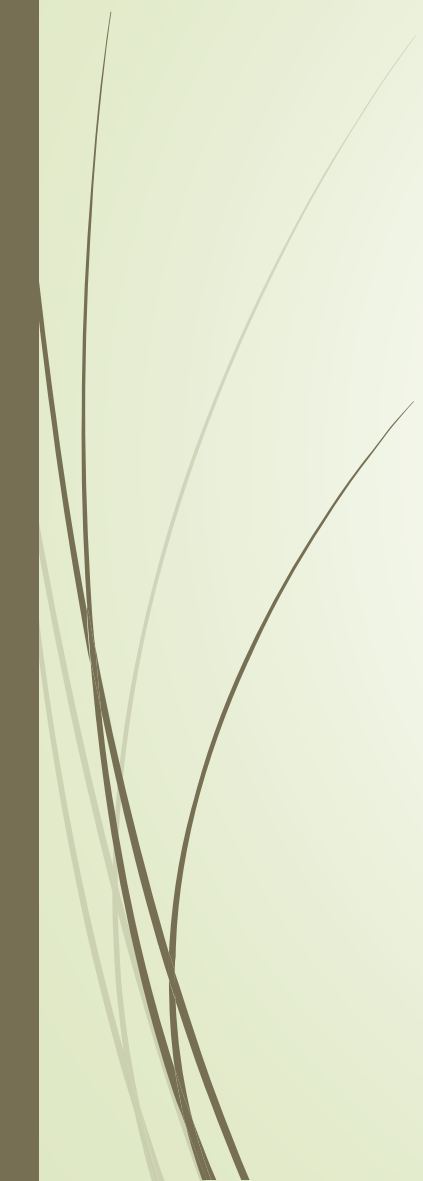

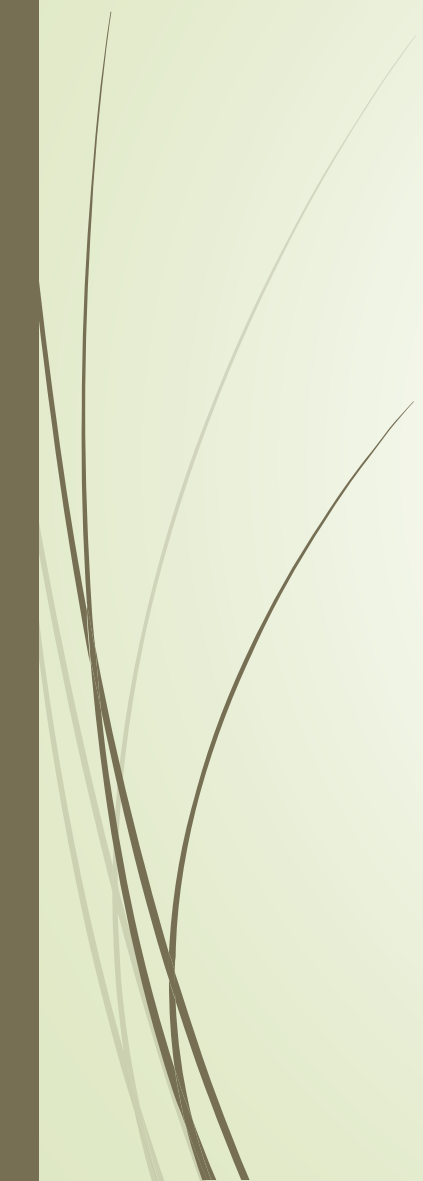



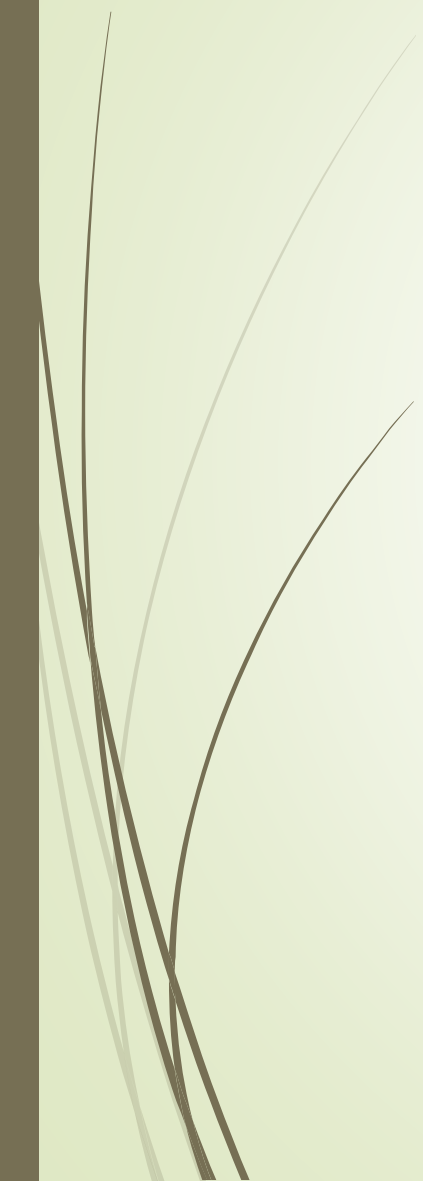
# Preparing For Marriage


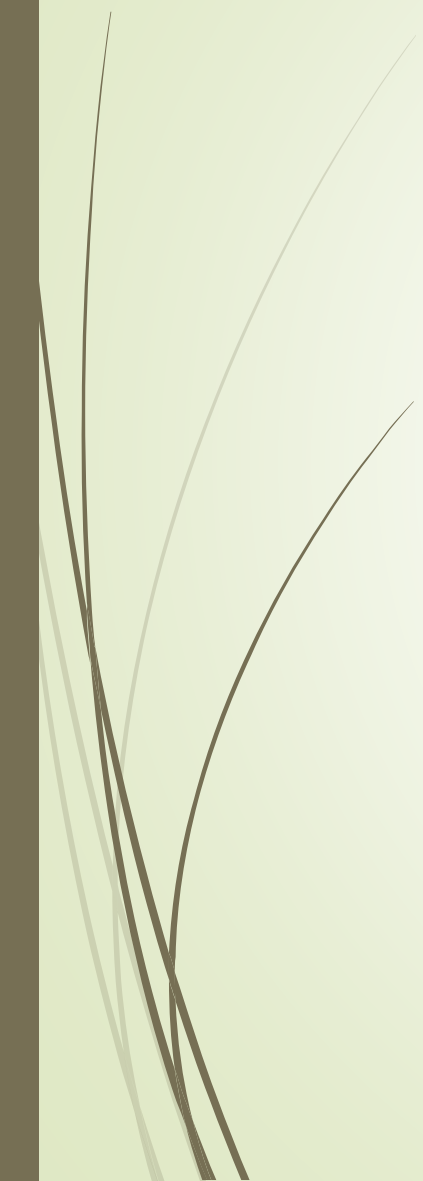


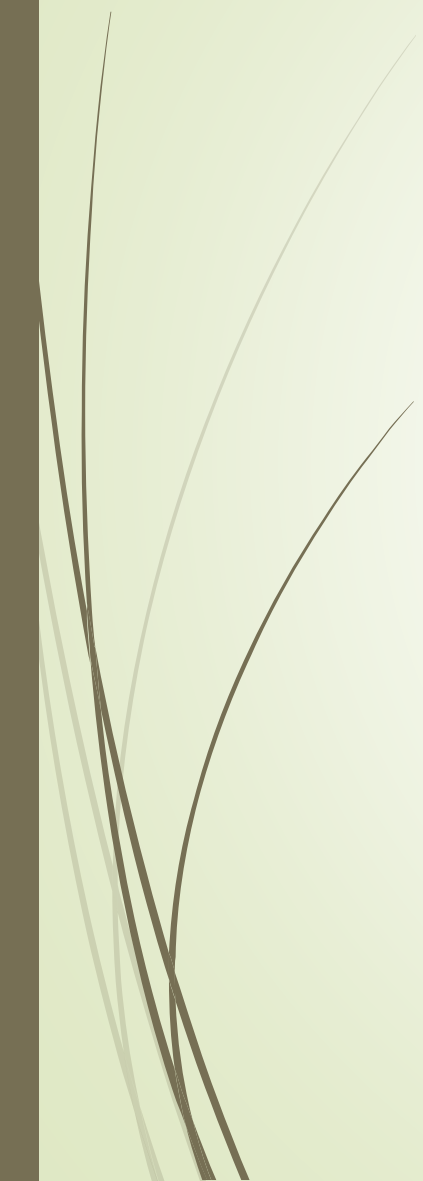

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- Because of the many changes within modern societies, preparation for marriage and family life is more than ever necessary
  - When a woman and man marry they bring with them the hopes, dreams, common sense, intelligence, courage, confidence and goodwill that attracted them to each other in the first place.

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- ▶ They also bring to the marriage any unresolved issues they will have to face during their time together
  - ▶ Good marriage preparation challenges couples to examine and explore together the feelings, values and ideas that will shape their lives together
  - ▶ Couples can better prepare themselves for married life by looking at a number of key areas

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1. Communication skills – must be able to talk about anything with each other and know that they will still be accepted
  2. Learn how to fight fair – how to work through problem areas constructively and resolve differences before bedtime
  3. Be prepared to accept change – 21<sup>st</sup> century things are changing rapidly:work, careers, roles etc

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4. Learn to accept in-laws – important part of spouse's life – strongly influence spouse
  5. Discuss goals about children – when, how many, which religion
  6. Exploring life-goals – hopes and dreams, how to cope when things go wrong
  7. Realising marriage is for life despite the culture of our day

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8. Learn to deal with land mines – talking about the past may be difficult but it is what shapes us. Anything that is unresolved could undermine the relationship
  - 9 Make marriage intimate – not just physically but by sharing feelings, conflicts working together and talking about ideas



10. Place God at the centre – openness to God working in our lives makes the difference. God is at the heart of a marriage, guiding a couple through the big and the small changes. Couples need to find ways to share faith and beliefs with each other



# Practical Arrangements

- Contact their parish months in advance
  - Participate in a marriage preparation programme
  - Have copies of baptismal records
  - Arrange an interview with a priest
  - Learn about and help plan the wedding liturgy
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