

## **FAMILY HISTORY**

There is no need to have experience of doing research in archives or to have done large amounts of family history to visit us. However, if you are new to family history, we would strongly recommend that you first look at The National Archives website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/>. This will give you advice on all aspects of family history and other types of research.

Our archives hold information on Catholics who lived in London (north of the river), and in the Middlesex and Hertfordshire areas. The records are by no means comprehensive, and many parishes still retain their own archives.

### **Births, Deaths, Marriages and Confirmations**

If you want to find sacramental records (baptism, marriage, confirmation, death) relating to your ancestors, it will be a very lengthy, time consuming process unless you know where they lived at the time, e.g. parish, street, registration district, and a rough idea of the date the event took place before starting your research. To do this, you can use census records or order birth, marriage or death certificates, following [The National Archives](#) guidelines.

You should also check that we actually have the records you need here in the archive. We hold a small selection of baptism, marriage, confirmation and death registers, mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. These include registers from parish churches, embassy chapels and registers kept by individual priests. A detailed list is available below:

#### [Guide 1: List of Sacramental Registers](#)

If you've never used Catholic records for research before, or you are looking for a specific piece of information, then Family History Guide 2 will explain what you are likely to find:

#### [Guide 2: Information Contained in Sacramental Records](#)

If you are unable to find the register you need in Family History Guide 1 or by searching our online catalogue, the likelihood is that it is still held in the parish church. Information on the best way to access these is available below:

#### [Guide 3: Requesting Information from Sacramental Registers](#)

If you think your ancestor's contact with the Church might have been through a school or other children's institution, then Family History Guide 4 explains where to find records:

#### [Guide 4: Records of Schools and Children's Institutions](#)

If you have any questions not answered here, then do [contact us](#). These are only very basic guides and so they may not be applicable to all situations. However, we are always happy to give specific advice where possible.

For any other records relating to your family history, the best places to start are the research guides provided by [The National Archives](#), and the local history centre covering the area they would have lived in: a list for London is available on the [GENUKI website](http://www.genuki.org.uk) [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)