

Key Words & Definitions: Relationships

Adultery	To have a sexual relationship outside marriage
Agape	Unconditional love (giving without expecting anything back).
Annulment	When a marriage is considered never to have happened - only the Pope can make a decision about this.
Arranged Marriage	Muslims believe marriages should not be left to chance so parents help individuals meet appropriate partners. There are many misunderstandings about this type of help and it does not mean couples are forced to marry.
Celibate/Celibacy	A long term decision to stop any sexual activity.
Chastity	Not getting involved in any sexual activity before marriage because sex is sacred and a gift from God.
Cohabitation	To live together in a sexual relationship without being married or in a civil partnership
Commitment	A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something
Conflict	Disagreements and quarrels; working against each other rather than together in unity; clashes and breakdown of relationships.
Contraception	Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant during or following sexual intercourse
Divorce	The legal separation of a legally married couple.
Duty	Something a person is expected to do because it is their job or responsibility; it might be the law or part of their religious beliefs.
Eros	Sexual love; physical love between two people
Faithfulness	Being sexually loyal and committed to one partner.
Fidelity	Being sexually loyal and committed to one partner.
Gender Equality	People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives.
Humane Vitae	Declaration by the Pope about contraception - it is seen as unacceptable and forbidden for all Roman Catholics.
iddah	Period of time that a Muslim couple must stay in a house to support reconciliation.
Love	To have a deep affection to someone and express it through your actions and words. One of the most powerful human emotions that joins people together.
Mahr	Dowry: agreed sum of money given to the wife.
Monogamy	Being married to only one person at a time.
Nikah	The ceremony which means the couple are married under Islamic law / contract/ agreement
Philia	Love of friends and family.
Polygamy	Being married to more than one person at a time.
Reconciliation	Saying sorry and having it accepted (forgiveness); making up and starting together again.
Register	All married couples must sign this to make the marriage legal.
Responsibility	Duties you should carry out; your obligations; what you are expected to take care of; something you do out of a sense of duty or because you are expected to do it.
Roles	Position, status or function of a person in a society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them.
Sacrament	A sacred ceremony or ritual in which God is directly involved eg a wedding ceremony
Storge	Affectionate or sentimental love.
Vows	The promises made at a wedding which should never be broken.