

A Background Reading List and Research Pointers

A revision, with additions, of **Michael Gandy's** *A Basic Bibliography for Catholic Family History* by **Sylvia J. Dibbs** 2018; includes some material by **Peter Barlow**

The Catholic Family History Society prepared the following list of standard histories, which may be available through your library system or from the [Catholic National Library](#), now housed at Ushaw Library, Durham University. Most of the books are out of print, but www.archive.org has useful out of print works. Raymond is the newest.

- Aveling, J.C.H.** *The Handle and the Axe*, 1976
Beck, G.A. * *The English Catholics 1850-1950*, 1950. [See a partial list of articles](#)
Bennett, Canon *Father Nugent of Liverpool*, 1949; reprinted 1993
Bossy, J. *The English Catholic Community 1570-1850*, 1975
Caraman, P. *The Other Face: Catholic Life under Elizabeth I*, 1960
Caraman, P. *The Years of Siege: Catholic Life from James I to Cromwell*, 1966
Duffy, E. *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England 1400-1580*, 1992.
Greenslade, M *Catholic Staffordshire 1500-1850*, 2006
Guilday, P. *The English Catholic Refugees on the continent 1558-1795*, 1914
Gwynn, D. *The Second Spring 1818-1852*, n/d
Gwynn, D. *Hundred Years of Catholic Emancipation 1829-1929*, 1929
Havran, M.J. *The Catholics in Caroline England* 1962
Hibbert, C. *King Mob*, 1959
Hodgetts, M. *Secret Hiding Places*, 1989
Kenyon, J. *The Popish Plot*, 1972
Leys, M.D.R. *Catholics in England 1559-1829: A Social History*, 1961
Loomie, A.J. *The Spanish Elizabethans*, 1963
Magee, B. *The English Recusants*, 1938
Mathew, D. *Catholicism in England 1535-1935*, 1936
Norman, E. *Roman Catholicism in England from the Elizabethan Settlement to the Second Vatican Council*, 1986
Raymond, S.A. *Tracing your Roman Catholic Ancestors*, 2018
Watkin, E.I. *Roman Catholicism in England from the Reformation to 1950*, 1957

Raymond aims at family and local historians, covering 1558 onwards, with many references and sources, including those online, is a very good overview. **Norman** is the next most recent, but less specifically for family historians. **Leys** is probably the best on the lives of ordinary Catholics over the penal period. **Magee** has many interesting statistics and lists all the Catholic nobility and gentry of the 17th century, information not brought together anywhere else. **Caraman's** two books are compilations and **Hodgetts** investigates the reality of 'priest-holes'. **Kenyon** is about the Titus Oates Plot of 1678-1681 and **Hibbert** covers the Gordon Riots of 1780. **Gwynn's** *Second Spring* is about that extraordinary group of Anglicans from the late 1820s onwards who talked themselves into being Catholics, often without having actually met any.