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
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
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
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.