



Take the Risk for Christ

Year for Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood

Update on the Year for Vocations

The Year for Vocations for Diocesan Priesthood “**Take the Risk for Christ**” has gained considerable traction with a lot of media coverage in print, broadcast and social media. Many parishes have been in contact with the office looking to acquire additional prayer cards and the roll-up banner displays for their parishes.



Deacon Eric Cooney
National Vocations Office

The year was launched with the **Evangelisation and Vocations Conference** in Renehan Hall with Archbishop Reno Fisichella pro-prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Evangelisation. This was followed by the **televised mass** on Good Shepherd Sunday which marked the 60th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This mass was concelebrated by Bishop Phonsie Cullinan (Chair of the Council for Vocations, and Bishop Larry Duffy who is the Vice-Chair of the Council.

The Bishops dedicated “**Reek Sunday**” to pray for Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood. A special **Vocations Cross** was commissioned and brought to Knock on the **Feast of Our Lady of Knock**. Representatives from every Diocese across Ireland participated in a prayer ceremony in the Apparition Chapel where they presented a panel containing the name of their diocese, which was inserted into the Vocations Cross.

The Vocations Office attended the **Youth 2000 Summer Retreat** in Clongowes Wood College and facilitated a workshop to young men on the vocation to Diocesan Priesthood. The pilgrimage Team in **Lough Derg** dedicated a pilgrim walk to pray for Vocations and the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin kindly provided the Vocations Office with a place in their tent to promote vocations. A golf outing “**Play for Vocations**” was held in Birr Golf Club.

Coming up we have an “**Art for Vocations**” exhibition is being planned for October 18. A National “**Come and See**” weekend is scheduled for the weekend of the 19th / 20th of November in our National Seminary in Maynooth. In the new year, the materials for **Catholic Schools Week** incorporate a focus on vocations. There will be a short “Camino” walk to Clonmacnoise by the seminarians and formation staff from Maynooth and a **three-day retreat for our Diocesan Vocation directors** is in planning for April.

The Year So Far

Reek Sunday



Bishop Phonsie with members of the Order of the Knights of St. Columbanus who distributed the Vocations Prayer card to pilgrims as they completed their descent of Croagh Patrick on Reek Sunday.

Lough Derg – Pilgrim Path



On 26th August, over 40 pilgrims gathered at Lough Derg to walk the 8 Km Pilgrim path and pray for Vocations. Pictured here with Bishop Phonsie is Fr La Flynn, the Prior of Lough Derg.



Diocese Gather in Knock



On the Feast of Our Lady of Knock, representatives of every diocese across Ireland gathered in the apparition chapel in Knock to pray for vocations. A special Vocations Cross was commissioned for the event.



Vocations Documentary for RTE



Arising out of the publicity around the Year for Vocations, we were approached by Scratch Films who have been commissioned by RTE to produce a documentary about Priesthood and Vocations in Ireland. Pictured above is Fr Willie Purcell being interviewed by Ardal O'Hanlon in Knock. Scratch Films also recorded footage of the prayer service in the Apparition Chapel.



Vocations Workshop at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival



Deacon Eric and myself attended the Youth 2000 Summer Festival in Clongowes wood college to deliver a workshop on vocations to the Diocesan priesthood and the Permanent Diaconate. The workshop was attended by 25 young men from all over Ireland.

I talked on the topic of Discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, and the importance of realizing that this takes time, it is nourished through prayer, reflection, patience, and attentiveness to God's action which is undertaken with the assistance of others particularly a priest to guide you on the discernment process. The priest could be in their parish, the vocations director in their diocese or a chaplain in their school or college. I told the group that it takes courage to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit and outlined the process of formation for becoming a diocesan priest, from connecting with the diocese, the propaedeutic year and life and formation in the seminary.

Deacon Eric spoke on the call to the Permanent Diaconate; he shared his own experience of formation and how he lives the ministry of the Permanent Diaconate in his parish and how this enriches not only his own life but his married life and family life. He spoke of the role of the Permanent Deacon as one of service, not as an alternative to priesthood but as a ministry that some men are called to live in collaboration with the priest and community in the service of Gods people.

The group engaged with many pertinent questions in relation to the life and ministry of the diocesan priest. They were invited to connect with the national office website for information on the forthcoming Come and See weekend.

We are grateful to youth 2000 for facilitating us with space to distribute information on the Year for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood at our unit in the display area.

Fr. Willie Purcell
National Vocations Coordinator.



National Ploughing Championships



Ploughing Championships:

This year the National Vocations Office had a space in the Kildare and Leighlin tent at the ploughing championships. Information on the diocesan priesthood, permanent diaconate, and the year for vocations to the diocesan priesthood were available.

Reflecting on the presence of the national office at the ploughing championships Fr. Willie said. *'I was very impressed by the number of young people who came and took the prayer cards and asked about a vocation to the diocesan priesthood'*. These young people give us hope as we look to the future of the church and vocations to the diocesan priesthood.



Play for Vocations

Birr Golf Club, 21st June 20203

A successful golf team tournament was held in Birr Golf Club to raise the awareness of the Year for Vocations and raising the profile of Diocesan Priesthood.

Play for Vocations was generously sponsored by Allianz, who also fielded a team.

The competition was strong, with Fr Brian Kavanagh's Kildare & Leighlan team winning the overall net prize and the gross prize going to the Cork team led by Fr. Michael O'Mahony.



Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, 1st prize net-Fr. Brian Kavanagh, Fr. Michael Murphy, Bishop Larry Duffy.



Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, 1st Gross Prize- Rev. John Guiry, Fr. Michael O' Mahony, Bishop Larry Duffy, Fr. Kieron O' Driscoll (in abstentia)



Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, Emma Coughlan (Allianz), Alan Black (Allianz)

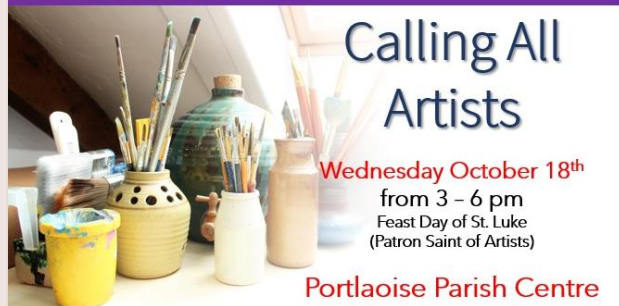
Upcoming Events

Bishop Phonsie has proposed an “**Art for Vocations**” exhibition. With so many people around the country involved in art, either on a professional basis or as a pastime, this provides a platform to engage with a cross section of society to raise the awareness for the need for vocations.

The exhibition will be held on the 18th October, the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, who is the Patron of Artists and will be held in the Portlaoise Parish Centre.

All who are interested in submitting a piece of art are required to email the vocations office and attach a scan or photo of the relevant work which they would like to exhibit.

ART FOR VOCATIONS



Calling All Artists

Wednesday October 18th
from 3 – 6 pm
Feast Day of St. Luke
(Patron Saint of Artists)

Portlaoise Parish Centre

In support of promotion of Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood.

If interested, please apply with your name and image of your artwork/exhibition by email to: info@vocations.ie



PRIESTS OF YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW



Fr Billy Swan is planning a three-night session on zoom hosted by the Hook of Faith with the title: 'PRIESTS OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW'.

'**Priests of Yesterday**' - to invite perhaps Patrick Kenny to talk about Fr Willie Doyle and what he might teach us about how to be priests today.

'**Priests of Today**' - to invite a jubilarian and/or newly ordained to give an input.

'**Priests of Tomorrow**'. This might serve as a virtual 'Come and See' and would anticipate the 'Come and See' weekend in Maynooth in November. With an input by both the National Vocations Office and perhaps a seminarian from Maynooth.



The Diocese of Killaloe has commenced a year-long initiative to encourage men to consider joining the priesthood. They are very hopeful that they can build on recent progress whereby three men from the Diocese will enter the seminary at Maynooth over the next 12 months. Their vocations initiative includes visits by their Vocations Director Fr. Ignatius McCormack to parish churches where they will be seeking to kickstart conversations within family groups, with local priests and in communities across the Diocese on the vocation of priesthood. They are encouraging any man who has been considering a vocation and is exploring their calling to make contact today with the Vocations Office or to speak with their local priest. Most newly ordained priests will comment on how the encouragement and counsel they received from their local priest greatly assisted in commencing their journey to priestly ministry.



Diocese of
WATERFORD & LISMORE

On October 22nd, the Feast of Pope St. John Paul, the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore will hold a **Vigil of Adoration and Prayer for Vocations** to the Diocesan Priesthood in the **Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity**



NATIONAL VOCATIONS OFFICE
IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

National Vocations Office, Columba Centre, Maynooth
Tel: +353 (0)1 505 3118 email: info@vocations.ie

vocations.ie

National Come and See Weekend

November 19 & 20

St Patrick's College Maynooth

Take the Risk for Christ

Come and See – Explore Priesthood

An opportunity for those who would like to find out more about the real-life experience of priestly life and what seminary formation is like.

This “Come and See” weekend will take place in the Seminary in Maynooth and provide those attending to meet seminarians and priests and hear of their personal vocation stories.

All who are interested in attending or would like to find out more can email the National Vocations Office on: info@vocations.ie



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Scripture Themed Intercessions – October

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time **October 1, 2023**

In today's Gospel Jesus tells a parable about doing the father's will. We pray for all whom the Lord is calling to be a priest, deacon or religious, that they will have the grace to discern the Lord's call and the guidance of the holy Spirit.

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time **October 8, 2023**

In our reading today St. Paul tells the church community that if there is anything they need to pray for it with thanksgiving and to fill their hearts and minds with everything that is good and pure. We pray for all who are discerning a vocation as a priest, deacon or religious, that they turn to God in prayer and open their hearts to discern the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time **October 15, 2023**

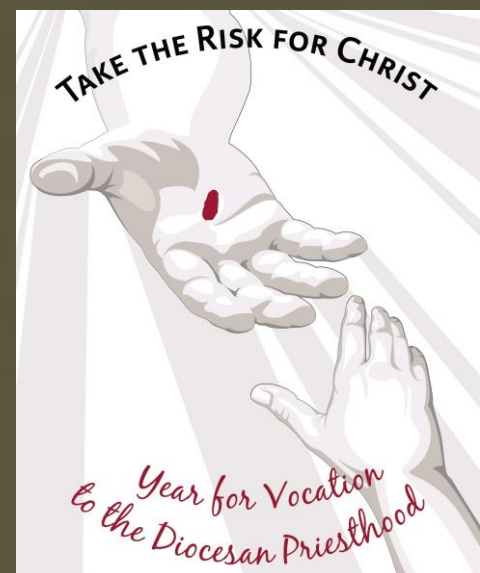
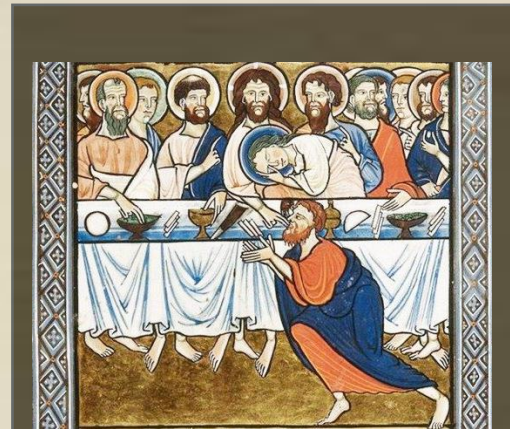
In our Gospel, Jesus using a parable about a wedding banquet tells us "**For many are called, few are chosen**". We pray for those who are chosen by the Lord to live their lives as a priest, deacon or religious, that they may respond with generosity.

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time **October 22, 2023**

In the Gospel Jesus tells us to '**give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.**' We pray for an increase in vocations, that those who are being called by God to live their lives as a priest, deacon or religious, may discern through prayer to give their lives in service to God.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time **October 29, 2023**

In responding to the Pharisees, Jesus identifies the commandments to love God and to love our neighbour as being the greatest commandments. We pray for those who are discerning a vocation, that they can live their lives as a priest, deacon or religious loving God and their neighbour. .



Scripture Themed Intercessions – November

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 5, 2023,

In teaching about humility, Jesus tells us “**The greatest among you must be your servant.**” We pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life and that those who are discerning to follow the Lord in this way, may be graced with humility and be servants of love.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time November 12, 2023

Our first reading tells us that “**Wisdom is found by those who look for her**” and the psalm responds: “**For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God**”. In the Gospel Jesus tells us to “**Stay awake**”. We pray for those who are discerning a vocation, that they ‘thirst for God’ that like a dry weary land without water, they pine for God, that they look for Wisdom and that they “stay awake” to watch for the signs of God in their lives.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 19, 2023

In our Gospel Jesus uses a parable to highlight our use of the gifts that he has given to each of us. “**You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master’s happiness.**” We pray that those who are discerning a vocation may have the courage to respond to the call of the Lord and to use their gifts in serving God.

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – November 26, 2023

In our first reading and psalm the image of a caring shepherd is used to portray God and the way God cares for us, his flock. In the Gospel Jesus tells us how God will separate the sheep from goats – those who lived righteous lives from those who did not. We pray for vocations, that those called by the Lord may hear his voice and respond with generosity to be shepherds of his flock as priests, deacons and religious.

