

Archdiocese of Dublin

**LAY
MINISTRY
APPEAL**

Building Hope Through Lay Ministry

**Thanks to
your support**

**Sat 17th
& Sun 18th
May 2025**



Lay Ministry 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Readings today are ideal in stressing the value of our vocation as baptised Christians. In the First Reading we hear the hope-filled message: God 'opened the door of faith' to so many, through the mission given to Paul and Barnabas to put 'fresh heart' into the people (Acts 14:21-27).

The mission to help open the door to faith, in our time, is the mission of the whole People of God. All of the baptised are called to build up the Church, clergy and lay people together, encouraged by the Holy Spirit. In this synodal Church of multiple ministries, no one should doubt but that the Lord continues to call people today to share his mission of service of the Gospel. The call to priesthood is born out of that invitation; it is an intensification of it.

So, what can I do? How can I respond? What is the Spirit asking of me in order to put fresh heart into the people? Well, here is something new. Thanks to your support for this collection each year, we are now providing training to build up active lay servant leaders, to work in a co-responsible way with priests, deacons and pastoral workers, in parishes and partnerships of parishes.

Over the past two years lay ministries have been steadily developing; 109 lay people from the Diocese have completed the Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis to become parish catechists, and this year 34 people have participated in our new Youth Ministry Leadership Certificate. 120 lay Funeral

**TAKE
ACTION TODAY**

We call upon your support to help shape the future of our Church through lay ministry. Your donation can make a significant difference. By encouraging one another, we can collectively make a profound impact on the future of lay ministry and the strength of our parish community.

Prayer Leaders have been trained across the Archdiocese and the *Pathways into Ministry* adult education programme continues to help adults develop their faith.

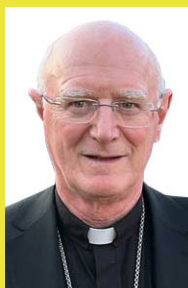
Of particular note this year, is the work ongoing in developing a Diocesan Pastoral Council, with a majority of lay participants, to advise the Archbishop on pastoral initiatives into the future. This Diocesan Pastoral Council is being commissioned today, Lay Ministry Sunday.

Through the special Lay Ministry Collection, you support the provision of these programmes and actions. I am announcing today, too, with your support, a grant fund to enable parishes in disadvantaged areas to engage the support of a Faith Development Worker at partnership level. Only with the committed generosity of priests and people around the Archdiocese can we find

new and creative ways to engage everyone in developing their faith, and build hope together: 'By this love you have for one another, everyone will know you are my disciples' (John 13:35).

Please join in supporting this mission today, and every day. Ask, what can I do to open the door of faith to others, in practical and life-giving ways, knowing that it is God who makes all things new (see Apocalypse 21:5).

**+Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin**



Opening the Doors of Faith

GROW YOUR FUTURE

Lay Ministry is at the heart of our parish life. It allows everyone in our community, no matter their age or background, to find their special role in the Church. Here are some interesting comments from people who have participated in Lay Ministry programmes in the Archdiocese.

'The course was excellent. It gave me a real understanding around the sacraments of the Church and how to accompany others in them. I feel I can take ownership of the work in this area in a new way as someone in Faith Formation and Pastoral Work. It was entirely different to my experience studying Theology.'

Catechist Certificate Participant

'The course was up to date and real for me regarding the present. There was no hiding from the difficult reality we are experiencing in the Church.'

Catechist Certificate Participant

'The PPC training has helped me to realise how we can focus on building up the pastoral life of the parish. I now recognise that we have to use Building Hope to renew our parishes and partnerships and not do our own thing.'

Parish Council Member

'I have gained confidence in how to walk with young people and meet their needs which may not be my need. Young people are searching for God and we have got to accompany them.'

Youth Ministry Leadership Participant

'Learning how to lead prayer has been so important for me. Now I know that we have to help young people experience and encounter Jesus.'

Youth Ministry Leadership Participant

'Pathways has opened me up to a more adult journey of faith. I feel I relied too much on what I got at Primary school. The adult journey of faith is exciting. I can confidently share my faith now.'

Pathways Participant



Make Your Donation Today

If you would like to make a direct donation to this appeal, please provide details below. A gift of any amount you can offer will help to provide the essential training and resources needed for passionate individuals to make a meaningful difference.

We appreciate your support.

Please return this form to

Patricia Clifford
Office for Financial
Development, 20-23 Arran Quay,
Dublin, D07 XK85
Telephone 01 808 7527 or email
patricia.clifford@dublindiocese.ie

Alternatively,

donations are welcome online at

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Lay Ministry

Archdiocese of Dublin

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