



Vocations 23

World day of prayer for Vocations / Fourth Sunday of Easter



We Priests...

'Gatekeepers to the future that is opening up'

At the Chrism Mass recently Bishop Niall described priests as 'gatekeepers to a future that is opening up'. In this weekend's Gospel the gatekeeper admits the Shepherd into the sheepfold. Elsewhere in the Scriptures Moses & John the Baptist were also gatekeepers of sorts. Moses stood at the edge of the promised land and gazed into it but never set foot in it. Perhaps we priests today are the same..we are gatekeepers to a future that is opening up but a future we may or may not enter. John the Baptist was the voice crying in the wilderness 'prepare a way for the Lord'. Priests too are called to do the ground work for a tomorrow that is in the Lord's hands. Karl Rahner was once described as 'a man of the day after tomorrow'. Isn't that who we priests are? -our lives and ministries point to the future, and when they do we are witnesses to Hope. Despite our diminishing numbers, our tiredness, our desire to cling to the fragments of the past, our disappointment at the lack of faith and practice today, etc. we are still a prophetic voice when we continue to proclaim the Gospel and minister to God's People. Every Baptism, wedding, funeral, celebration of the Eucharist, school visit, pastoral visit of the sick, is an act of Hope that declares that Christ Jesus is our Hope (Bishop Niall's motto). This is why the promotion of Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood is so important. This is why a year of vocations has just begun. It is a statement of Hope that despite the challenges we face we will never give up on God's Love for us, the whole Church and the World.

To abandon ship on speaking of vocations would be a negation of Hope. New gatekeepers will always be necessary who will open up new pathways for our sisters and brothers as they journey into the Church of the future. The priest of the day after tomorrow will be a type of Sherpa rather than the expedition leader, helping a pilgrim people to navigate the often difficult terrain of life, accompanying them with the Gospel and trusting them to reach the summit. Today you and I can play our part by leaving aside our negativity and our fears for the future and instead be who we are called to be - Hope fuelled gatekeepers to the future - earthenware jars containing a great treasure to be shared with all the Baptised.

On this vocations weekend I would humbly ask you to consider doing three simple things listed below to open the gate to the future that is opening up...

1

HOMILY

This weekend speak of Vocations & your ministry of Hope of as a Priest

2

MAKE NEW DISCIPLES

in the days ahead invite two young people to become involved in some aspect of Church Life in the Parish

3

PRAY

Every weekend during the year of Vocations pray that young people will respond to the Lord's call

9 DAYS

Diocesan Novena for Vocations

Vigil of Ascension Saturday 20th May



Pentecost Sunday Sunday 28th May



Retreat Day

18 - 35 year olds

Whats my Mission?

Saturday 10th June

details to follow



A Prayer of the Faithful

For our young people, that they will respond courageously to the voice of the Lord when he calls them to live out their mission as priests and religious in the Church
Lord hear us

Newsletter

Perhaps you might place the following note in your Parish Newsletter this weekend and whenever space allows during the coming year of Vocations.

Ever Thought of being a Priest?

Have you ever thought of being a Priest? Did that thought stay with you even for the shortest time? Maybe you are being called to a way of life that is certainly different but is also a life worth living. The mission of a Priest as Pope Francis often reminds us is to bring God's Love, Mercy, and Hope to People, to accompany them on their search for God, to help them discover their true mission to be active partakers in the life of the Church.

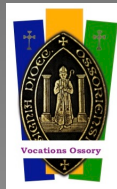
You can only do this when you have discovered God's Love for you and when Jesus Christ is at the centre of your life. The journey to priesthood is first of all a journey of discovery - discovering who God really wants you to be and how your mission will unfold. So would you like to explore further... ask more questions....at your pace? Take a risk for Christ. Why not drop an email to Fr Kieran O' Shea, Diocesan Vocations Director for further information or to arrange a chat.

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Diocese Of Ossory Prayer For Vocations

Lord Jesus we believe that you continue to scatter the seeds of vocation in the hearts of young people today.

Help us to nourish those seeds with encouragement and support so so that they will take root, grow, & bear fruit.

Give to all who are called the courage they need to take a first step on a journey of discovery which will lead them to that place where they will encounter you Lord

& discern the road you invite them to follow.

Lord fill young hearts with a spirit of loving service care and respect for themselves and others.

Provide your Church in Ossory with humble shepherds who will work with their Sisters & Brothers in a spirit of co- responsibility for your Church.

**We ask this through the intercession of Mary the Mother of Jesus, St Kieran and all the Saints of Ossory.
Amen**

Prayer of Priests

Lord Jesus,
What weaknesses did you see in us that made you decide to call us, in spite of everything, to collaborate in your mission? We give you thanks for having called us, and we beg you not to forget your promise to be with us to the end of time.

Frequently we are invaded by the feeling of having worked all night in vain, forgetting,

perhaps, that you are with us. We ask that you make yourself present in our lives and in our work, today, tomorrow, and in the future yet to come.

Fill with your love these lives of ours, which we put at your service.

Take from our hearts the egoism of thinking about what is "ours," what is "mine", always excluding, lacking compassion and joy.

Enlighten our minds and our hearts, and do not forget to make us smile when things do not go as we wished.

At the end of the day, of each one of our days, make us feel more united with you and better able to perceive and discover around us greater joy and greater hope.

We ask all this from our reality. We are weak and sinful people, but we are your friends.
Amen.

Fr Adolfo Nicolás SJ

Message of pope Francis for 60th world day of prayer for vocations 2023

Vocation: Grace & Mission

"Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words, to the experience of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. That mission finds expression in works of material and spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference. By being a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. Mk 10:45)."

To read the full message [Click Here](#) or go to www.vatican.va

