

Ossory Vocations News

Pastoral Areas: Centres of Vocation Promotion

Bishop Nulty has announced a new initiative for the promotion of Vocations in the Diocese of Ossory. He is inviting each Pastoral Area Council to appoint a Vocations promoter who will liaise with Fr Kieran O' Shea the Diocesan Vocations Director and assist parishes in the task of promoting Vocations locally. A meeting of Vocations promoters from the various pastoral Areas will take place before the end of June. This undertaking provides an opportunity for synodality & acknowledges the important role that local faith communities play in fostering vocations to Priesthood in our Diocese. Speaking recently at the launch of an upcoming symposium on vocations and priesthood in Rome, Cardinal Marc Ouellet noted that synodality in connection with vocations, requires "close collaboration between lay people, priests and men and women religious, for the proclamation of the Gospel to the world through the attractive witness of Christian communities."

Meeting between Vocations Director & Diocesan Advisors

Fr Kieran O' Shea Ossory Vocations Director will meet the Diocesan Advisors to Primary & Secondary Schools in the coming weeks to explore ways in which children and young people in our Catholic Schools can be familiarised with the ministry & life of the Priest in the Parish Community & promote a culture of vocations.

On going Formation of Priests :Vocation & Ministry

The Vatican will host a Theological Symposium on Vocations on 17-19 February 2022, entitled "Toward a Fundamental Theology of the Priesthood". Each of the three days will focus on a different theme. The first day will be dedicated to "Tradition and New Horizons", the second to "Trinity, Mission, and Sacramentality", and the third to "Celibacy, Charism, and Spirituality". To coincide with this Symposium Ossory vocations and the Faith Development Group will facilitate a conference on Priesthood and Vocations in early 2022.

New channels of Discovery

Beginning in September 2021 a new programme will begin to assist young people in exploring important life questions and providing a space for them to take a first step on the journey of discovering their true calling. The programme will continue until May 2022. Full details of the programme including application forms will



VOCATIONS

Vocations Sunday 2021...In this Newsletter....

NOVENA
PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

DREAM,
SERVICE, FIDELITY
MESSAGE 2021

PASTORAL LETTER
'BUT MUST NOT SOME ONE OF US
SAY SOMETHING ABOUT GOD...'

PASTORAL AREAS
CENTRES OF VOCATION

ENGAGING WITH
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ONGOING FORMATION
VOCATION & MINISTRY

DISCERNMENT
PROGRAMME

Ever think of
being a...

Priest ?

You ...
could be the
Answer
to the

?

For more information

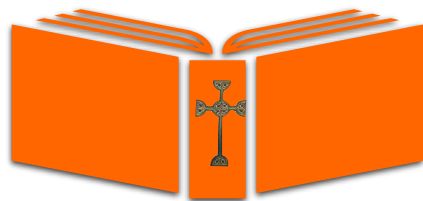
Contact
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take a first
step on the
journey of
discovery...

Diocese of Ossory
www.ossory.ie



Beginning on Sunday 25th April a Novena for vocations will take place in our Diocese. Its simple format can be prayed at daily Mass during the coming week and beyond.

Each day after the entrance antiphon or opening hymn a special candle can be lit accompanied by the following prayer

Lord Jesus your light shines in the hearts of all who are called leading them to take a first step on a journey of discovery.

Intention for each day

At the beginning of Mass you are invited to announce the novena intention for the particular day. The intentions are given below.

Prayers of the faithful

The prayer of the faithful given overleaf can be used or one included each day

Novena Prayer

After Communion Pray the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations

Intentions for each Day

Sunday

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Priests and Deacons, that through joyful and enthusiastic service of God's People they will attract others to follow Christ

Monday

For Parents and Grandparents that through word and example they will be witnesses to the Joy of the Gospel & encourage their children & grandchildren to consider lives of service in the Church

Tuesday

For Teachers in our schools and for leaders of young people in the community that they will encourage a culture of vocation and service

Wednesday

For all involved in various ministries in the Church that they will through their service lead others to lives of discipleship and faithfulness to the Gospel

Thursday

For those discerning a vocation that they will discern their true calling with the support of the Church community

Friday

For all the Baptised that they will be conscious of their responsibility to pray and be promoters of vocations

Saturday

For seminarians and all preparing for priesthood that they will persevere with God's help and the support of the People of God

Sunday

For those involved in the ministry of formation that they will accompany all candidates leading them to discern God's path for them

Monday

For all our young people that they will come to know Jesus Christ and have the courage to use their gifts in the service of Christ & his people.

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.

Amen

Mary our Mother, **Pray with us for Vocations**
St Kieran, **Pray with us for Vocations**
St Canice, **Pray with us for Vocations**
St Feargal, **Pray with us for Vocations**
St Fiakra **Pray with us for Vocations**
All saints of Ossory, **Pray with us for Vocations**

Prayers of the Faithful

For Pope Francis & for the Church throughout the world. **Lord hear us**

For the people of God in our Diocese, for Denis our Administrator for our Priests & those in consecrated life. **Lord hear us**

For our Parish communities that they will be centres of encouragement for all who may be called to priesthood & religious life. **Lord hear us**

For our young people that they will not be afraid to dream to serve & to seek fidelity. **Lord hear us**

For all who suffer, that they will always have compassionate shepherds to minister to them, **Lord hear us**

For a culture of care and respect for the dignity of each person **Lord hear us**

For all our own intentions & for those who have asked our prayers. **Lord hear us**

For all who have died in the peace of Christ **Lord hear us**

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS 2021



BISHOP DENIS NULTY PASTORAL LETTER FOR VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Saint Joseph: The Dream of Vocation

In his message for World day of Vocation 2021 Pope Francis invites us to reflect on three words that emerge from the life of St Joseph to whom this year has been dedicated and which in a special way can help us discern our own vocation. Below is a brief summary of his message. The full text is available on the Vatican Website or by clicking the link above

Saint Joseph suggests to us three key words for each individual's vocation. The first is Dream. God does not like to reveal himself in a spectacular way, pressuring our freedom. He conveys his plans to us with gentleness. He does not overwhelm us with dazzling visions but quietly speaks in the depths of our heart, drawing near to us and speaking to us through our thoughts and feelings. So too in a vocation: God's call always urges us to take a first step, to give ourselves, to press forward. There can be no faith without risk. Only by abandoning ourselves confidently to grace, setting aside our own programmes and comforts, can we truly say "yes" to God.

A second word marks the journey of Saint Joseph and that of vocation: Service. The Gospels show how Joseph lived entirely for others and never for himself. What a beautiful example of Christian life we give when we refuse to pursue our ambitions or indulge in our illusions, but instead care for what the Lord has entrusted to us through the Church! God then pours out his Spirit and creativity upon us; he works wonders in us, as he did in Joseph.

Together with God's call, which makes our greatest dreams come true, and our response, which is made up of generous service and attentive care, there is a third characteristic of Saint Joseph's daily life and our Christian vocation, namely **Fidelity**. How is such fidelity nurtured? In the light of God's own faithfulness. The first words that Saint Joseph heard in a dream were an invitation not to be afraid; these words the Lord also addresses to you, dear sister, and to you, dear brother, whenever you feel that, even amid uncertainty and hesitation, you can no longer delay your desire to give your life to him. He repeats these words when, perhaps amid trials and misunderstandings, you seek to follow his will every day, wherever you find yourself. They are words you will hear anew, at every step of your vocation, as you return to your first love.

Rome, from Saint John Lateran, 19 March 2021,
Feast of Saint Joseph. Francis

"But must not some one of us say something about God..."

Reflecting on the above quote from Karl Rahner, our Apostolic Administrator Bishop Denis Nulty invites us to consider the importance of the ministry of the priest as one who speaks of God in the community and society. Below is a brief summary of his Pastoral Letter. The full text is available on the Ossory Diocesan Website or by clicking the link above.

Over these past few days I read an article in which a priest was reflecting on the areas of his ministry that give him life, in many ways I could see myself, and all of us, called to religious vocation in that article. A reflection that took as its starting point this wonderful quote of, the German Theologian, Karl Rahner. It, rightly, reminds us of the imperative of some saying something about God in our world.

"But must not some one of us say something about God..."

Priesthood and religious life respond positively to this need in our world today. A life lived in this way is a life lived for others, to remind them of how special they are in the eyes of God. The existence of a life of vocation in our communities is living proof that humanity is destined for more...

"But must not some one of us say something about God..."

The life of priesthood which I have lived for the past thirty-three years has afforded me many opportunities to journey with people at the most sacred of times: at moments of birth, at the time of death, at the celebration of great love that is marriage and at many, many, wonderful sacramental celebrations of significant personal milestones. It is at these points, for many people, that dreams are hatched, futures are planned and goals are set. At these points, then, it is good that someone is speaking too of the divine possibility that is rooted in our human nature... Someone needs to whisper that, in these moments.

Going back to 1981, that dream brought me to the road of formation. A journey that I believe equips me, in prayer, for whatever challenges life throws up. Wake up the world... dream big... speak it today. Shift the gaze of others to higher horizons. Be a reminder of the divine that is present in every human being. Why not consider a life of Priesthood or Religious life?

+ Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of Ossory