

# Lay Ministry 2026

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

In our second reading today, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is the 'precious cornerstone' on whom we depend. We are called, as Christians who are baptised, to be 'living stones', built on Christ: 'living stones making a spiritual house... to sing the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:4-9).

This call is embodied in this year's theme for Lay Ministry Sunday: **Building faith-filled communities**. We are called to be builders of faith so that we can confidently share our faith in Christ with others.

Through your donation to the annual Lay Ministry Collection, you continue to support and build up faith-filled communities in the Archdiocese. As priests, deacons and people, we seek to find new and creative ways to engage everyone in developing their faith.

Because of your support for this Collection, the grant fund, announced last year, has been able to facilitate parishes, in areas of most need, to engage the ministry of a Faith Development Worker. This initiative is beginning to bear fruit, and I encourage all Partnerships of Parishes to pray and discern what lay ministries are needed to build faith-filled communities in their area.

Thanks to your contributions on Lay Ministry Sunday, the diocese can now offer subsidies to participants of the Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, the Pathways into



Ministry Programme and the Youth Ministry Leadership Certificate. This year, 1,500 people are participating in formation for voluntary ministries – a great sign of hope to us all. In addition, through the work of the Office of Mission & Ministry, parish ministries such as Lay Funeral Prayer Leaders continue to be supported, formed and resourced.

In addition, since last September, the Diocesan Pastoral Council has begun to explore with me the pastoral development of the Archdiocese.

Please help to support lay ministry initiatives. Your committed generosity, today and every day, makes a difference. Together we can build parishes and partnerships that are alive and active, joyful and faith-filled, synodal and missionary.

May we be 'filled with the Spirit and with wisdom' (Acts 6:3) as we focus on the pastoral, missionary and synodal conversion the Holy Spirit is calling the Church to, across the world, in our time.

**+Dermot Farrell**  
**Archbishop of Dublin**