

Archdiocese of Dublin

LAY
MINISTRY
APPEAL

Building Faith-filled Communities

You can play
your part



Sat 2nd
& Sun 3rd
May 2026

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

Lay Ministry in Action

The Catechist Certificate course transformed my mindset from seeing catechesis as a programme to understanding it as a process. It highlighted accompaniment as central and equipped me with the skills to serve as a confident facilitator, supporting both parents and children. **Loretta Kelly, Coolock, Catechist Certificate participant**

The small group setting was great as we got to know and support each other. The sessions were so professional and full of content. It helped me to understand the role of the catechist more fully.

Dolores Durnin, Dún Laoghaire, Catechist Certificate participant

I believe my work in Avoca Parish as Faith Development Worker encourages people from all four churches to work together as one community, supports the priest and helps share the workload where possible and encourages more people to get involved and take on roles and ministries. I am



creating opportunities for prayer and faith development, encouraging volunteering and fundraising and hopefully bringing new energy and life to the parish. **Elaine McGuire, Faith Development Worker, Avoca**

I thoroughly enjoyed coming to the weekly sessions and gaining new knowledge that I realised I really didn't have. Being with like minded people who are also on the same journey of developing their own faith for ministry. **Pattie Smith, Ballymun Road, Pathways Certificate participant**

Pathways has grown my faith, my knowledge and awareness. It's also been great to meet so many people from all the parishes around Dublin. I'm looking forward to my second year. **Joe Clancy, Donabate, Pathways Certificate 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

www.dublindiocese.ie

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- Quarterly Annually

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Payment Reference:
Lay Ministry

Archdiocese of Dublin

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