

Archdiocese of Dublin

LAY
MINISTRY
APPEAL

Shape Our Future

Support Lay Ministry

Sat 27th &
Sun 28th
April



Lay Ministry Sunday

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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am continually inspired by the spirit of faith and care that animates our Catholic community, even as we face the reality of so few vocations to the priesthood. This is a time of listening, discernment and renewed pastoral action for all of us in the Church, clergy and lay people. The vitality of our Church increasingly relies on our lay people to step into leadership and service roles with courage and love.

In the past year, we can point to green shots emerging through efforts associated with our Building Hope initiative. The Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, provided by the Office of Mission and Ministry, is a good example. Announced last May, it has been a real success. This in-demand programme examines the vocation and mission of the participants inspired to share their faith with others. Thanks to your support, it gives them the tools to assist others on their faith journey. In particular, it helps them 'accompany families' sensitively and practically as they initiate young people into the life of the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and the reception of Holy Communion.

Other creative programmes supporting lay people to nurture their adult faith, and engage with young people include, '*Servant Leadership*', '*Pathways*', '*Lay Funeral Leadership*', '*Confirmation Connect*' and the Laudato Si' Awards, as well as the '*Just Lent*' campaign which focused on Christian social justice during Lent. These programmes help us to stop and 'abide' with Jesus to realise God's loving presence with us.

In light of all these significant initiatives, I ask for your generous support for the Lay Ministry Collection. Your contributions are vital in sustaining and expanding these initiatives, ensuring our Church remains a vibrant beacon of hope and faith in the world.

As we heard in today's gospel:

'It is to the glory of the Father that you should bear much fruit.' (John 15: 8).

May the Lord bless you generously and help you find ways to bear fruit for Him and each other in abundance.

There can be a new beginning for each of us as we allow our sense of Christian faith, hope and love to grow within us. But that is only the first step. We are called at Baptism, all of us, to speak joyfully of the presence of the risen Christ to us and of the difference the Holy Spirit makes in our lives:

'We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.' (1 John 3: 24).

I invite you to consider your role in the mission handed on to us by Jesus. Together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can forge a path of hope and renewal for our Archdiocese.



Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dermot Farrell'.

Shape Our Future

Mary Lucey, recently completed the Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, Mary witnessed first-hand the profound effects of such training.

‘The course was really fantastic and more than I expected’ Mary’s engagement, particularly in the module focusing on adult faith formation deepened her own faith journey. It also actively contributed to the spiritual life of her community, as evidenced by her support in the baptism and confirmation of fellow parishioners. **‘It’s crucial we support this appeal, giving others the chance to enrich our parish life. Lay ministry has transformed not just my life but our whole parish.’**

‘I was interested and excited about the difference that we, as individual lay members of the church, could make. it gave me a much better understanding of my own personal faith’.

Maurice O’Connor, Brackenstown.
St. Cronins and Swords Parish



The Essence of Lay Ministry

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.

‘Our priests are getting fewer, our priests are getting older. I think it’s really important that laypeople understand their call to participate fully. Once our awareness grows, then the ownership, the understanding, the responsibility grows with that, too’.

Peter Siney, Diocesan Faith Development
Coordinator for Adult Faith and Pastoral Councils

‘Lay ministry is the heartbeat of the parish, encompassing both the visible roles, like reading during Mass or assisting with sacraments, and the often-unseen tasks, such as arranging flowers or managing finances. It is the lifeblood of our parish, vital for its day-to-day operation and spiritual health.’

Natalie Doherty, Diocesan Faith Development
Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry



Make Your Donation Today

A gift of any amount you can offer, will help 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: fundraising@dublindioocese.ie

Alternatively,

donations are welcome online at

www.dublindioocese.ie

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Swift Code: BOFIIE2
BOI, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1

Commencing on / /

- Monthly Half Yearly
- Quarterly Annually

Name of Account

Authorised Signature

Payment Reference:
Lay Ministry

Archdiocese of Dublin

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