

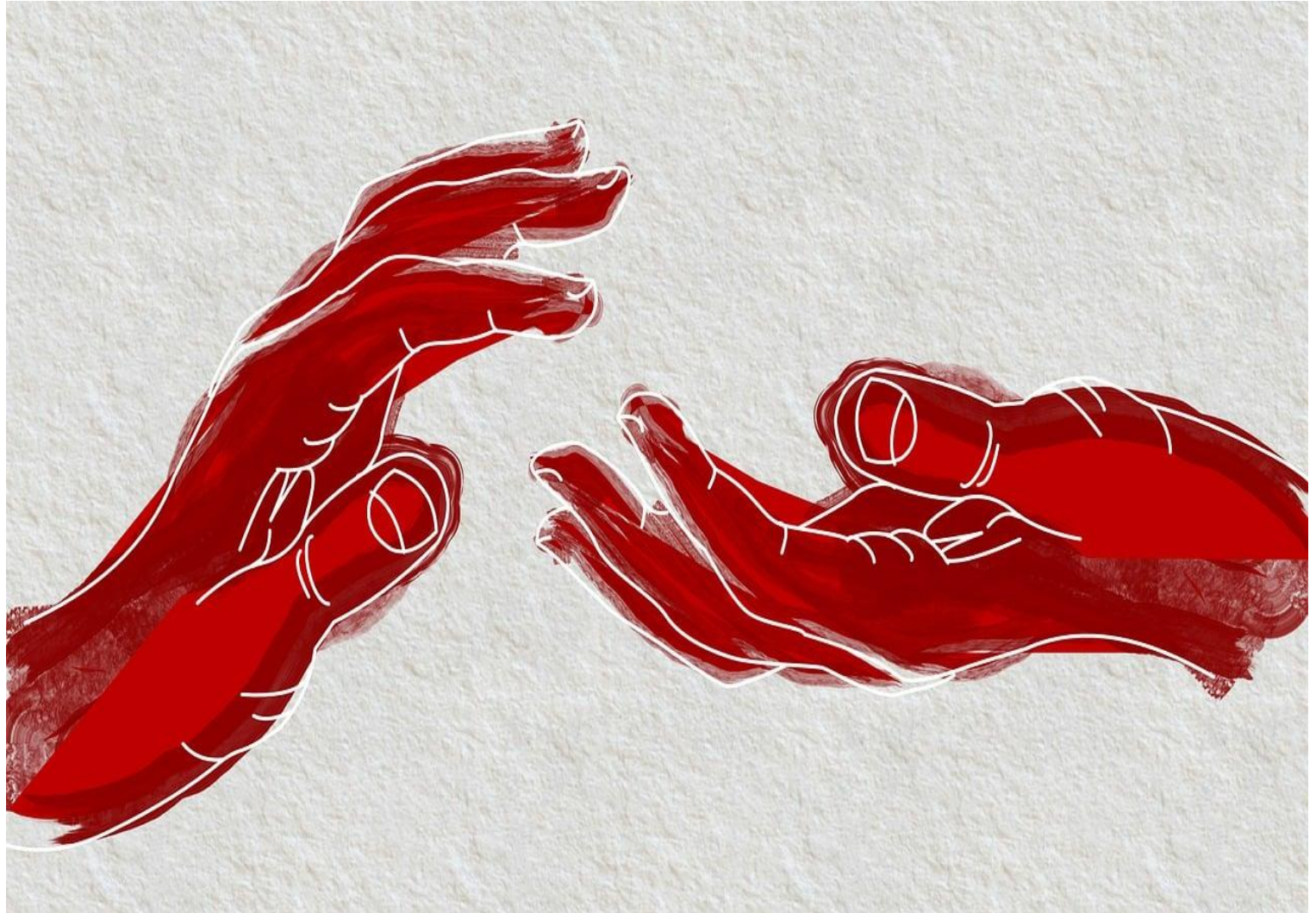
# Information Session: Lay Ministries



**Pastoral Development Office  
Diocese of Ferns**

**053 9124368**

**[pdw@ferns.ie](mailto:pdw@ferns.ie)**







But the LORD says,

“Do not cling to events of the past  
or dwell on what happened long ago.

Watch for the new thing I am going to do.

It is happening already—you can see it now!

I will make a road through the wilderness

and give you streams of water there.” *Isaiah 43: 18-19*



***St. Thérèse of Lisieux describes prayer as  
'... a surge of the heart; it is a simple  
look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of  
recognition and of love, embracing both  
trial and joy.'***



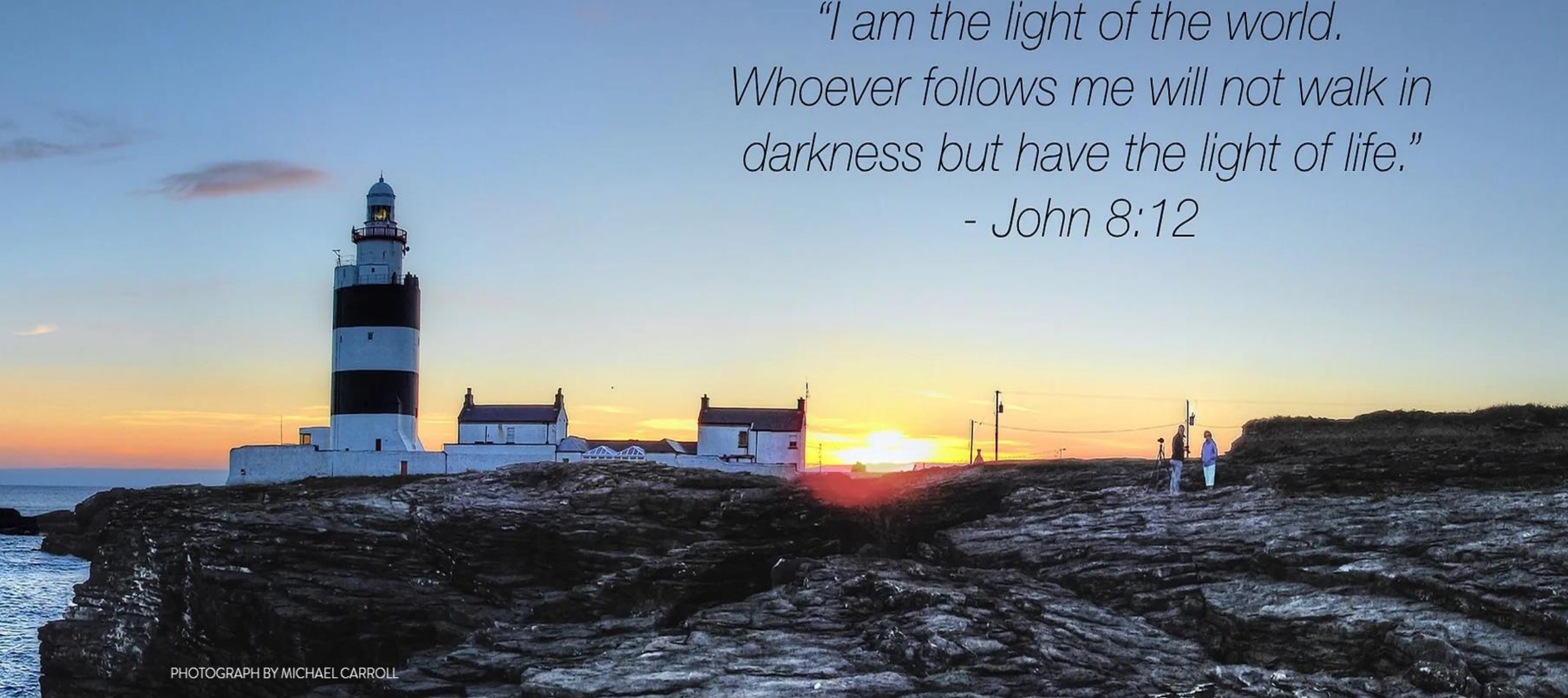


**“We can all be the sowers of our time, people who sow seeds that will be reaped by the next generation. When we sow we must not expect instant success, but sow we must if a new world is ever to come to fruit...**

**Even in the face of the impossible, we must act as if it is possible to change. That is what hope is. That is what sowing is about. It is living with uncertainty and ambiguity. It is living with hope and hoping against hope.”** Sr Stan: *Now Is The Time*



*"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in  
darkness but have the light of life."  
- John 8:12*



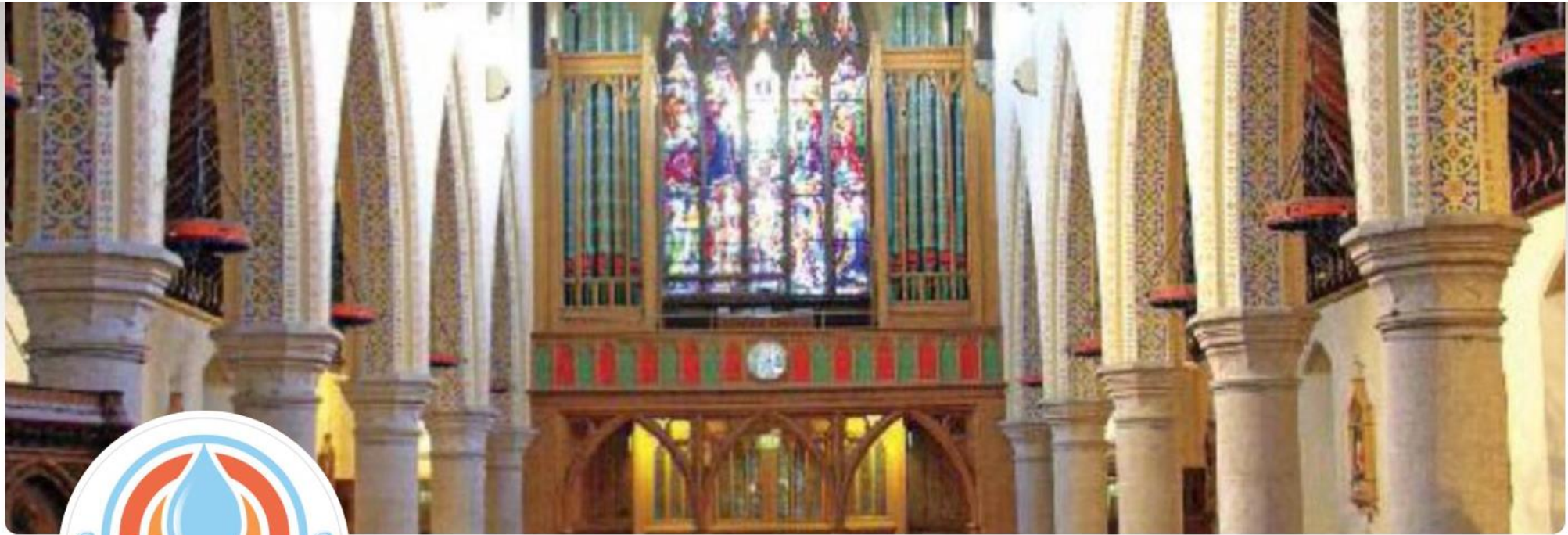
PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL CARROLL

THEHOOKOFFAITH.COM

Digitally proclaiming the Gospel in the diocese of Ferns and beyond



[www.facebook.com/FernsDPC/](http://www.facebook.com/FernsDPC/)



**Diocese of Ferns** (Diocese of Ferns)

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# ***Pastoral Plan - A Treasure of Life (2024 – 2030)***

**Listen & Follow**

**Love & Serve**

**Welcome & Include**

**Hope & Communicate**



**Pray & Journey**

**Form & Lead**

**Worship & Witness**

**Empower & Flourish**

# Formation: Purpose and Goals

- understand that Baptism is the foundation of ministry
- realize personal gifts and use those gifts in ministry to God's people
- grow spiritually in word, worship and service within the faith community
- develop leadership skills in ministry
- be formed for more effective volunteer ministry in a collaborative environment
- gain a broader and deeper vision of the Church and its theology





*'All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.'*

St Francis of Assisi



*Breathe*

*What inspires me?*

*The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the  
Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4*



# Ministry

“Preach the gospel at all times, when necessary use words.”

– *St. Francis of Assisi*

‘Lay people are, put simply, the vast majority of the people of God. There has been a growing awareness of the identity and mission of the laity in the Church.

At the same time, a clear awareness of this responsibility of the laity, grounded in their baptism and confirmation, does not appear in the same way in all places.

In some cases, it is because lay persons have not been given the formation needed to take on important responsibilities.’

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*:  
Apostolic Exhortation on the New Evangelization  
(November 24, 2013), no. 102.



# Talents and Skills



*‘Within our Diocesan community, there is commitment to utilising existing talents and developing further skills in the Synodal processes of companionship, listening, speaking out, celebrating, dialogue, discerning, participating and ministering.’*

**Synthesis of Communal Spiritual Discernment: Diocese of Ferns (2022)**

‘The ministries which exist and are at work at this time in the Church are all, even in their variety of forms, a participation in Jesus Christ’s own ministry as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, the humble servant who gives himself without reserve for the salvation of all.’

[Apostolic Exhortation *‘Christifideles Laici’* (1988), No. 21 issued by Pope John Paul II]



*First and foremost,  
faith is a relationship.*



# 'Continuity' - Some Pastoral Developments in our Diocese

- Eucharistic Ministers/Ministers of the Word (1980s)
- Certificate in Pastoral Theology
- Scripture Programmes
- Youth Programmes
- Safeguarding
- School Support for Sacramental Preparation
- Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees
- [www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)
- Pray with Scripture
- Synod on Synodality - ongoing
- Transition to Pastoral Areas - ongoing
- Development of a Pastoral Plan - ongoing

# *A calling is a sacred gift.*

*Vocation comes from the latin word vocare, to call ...*



‘Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need.’ (Frederick Buechner)



# LAY VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

1. Catechists

2. Pastoral Care  
Workers

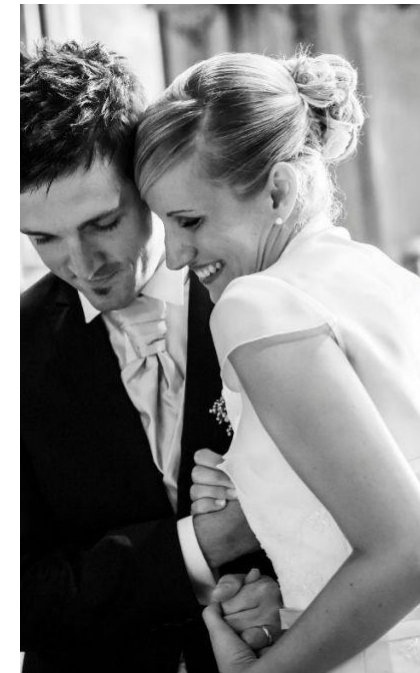
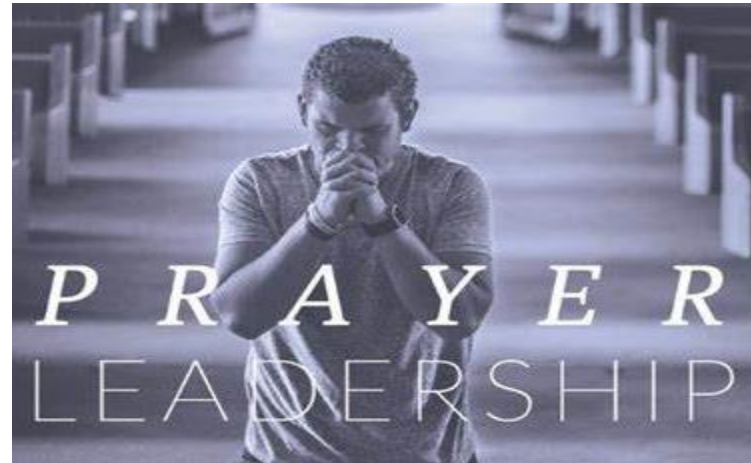
3. Prayer Leaders

4. Parish

Administrators

5. Facilitators

with Accord



JOIN ACCORD  
AS A MARRIAGE  
PREPARATION  
PROGRAMME  
FACILITATOR

Email [info@accord.ie](mailto:info@accord.ie)  
for an application form



# LAY MINISTRY

- Catechists
- Pastoral Care Workers  
also funeral ministry



## *Ministry Training Programme in 'Diocese & SPPU'*

*Jan – Jun 2024: Five separate days with  
2 overnights (Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March) in our  
Diocese*

*From Sept 2024, a 2 year part-time  
accredited programme*

- 
- **Facilitators with Accord – ACCORD Training**

- 
- Prayer & Liturgy Leaders
  - Parish Administrators e.g. parish  
council formation, finance and admin

*Short Courses in  
our Diocese*





# [www.aspal.ie](http://www.aspal.ie) a partnership with SPPU



St Patrick's  
Pontifical University



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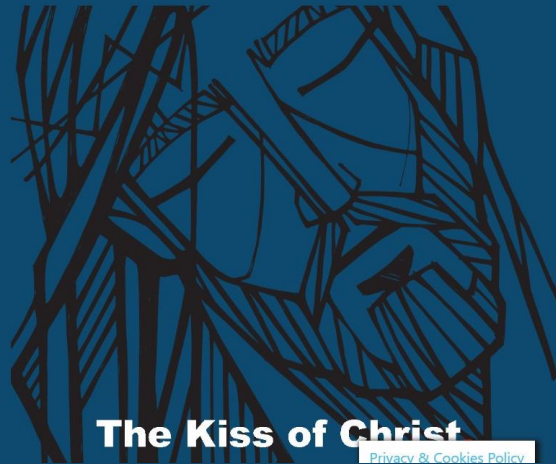


[About](#)

COURSE

## THE KISS OF CHRIST

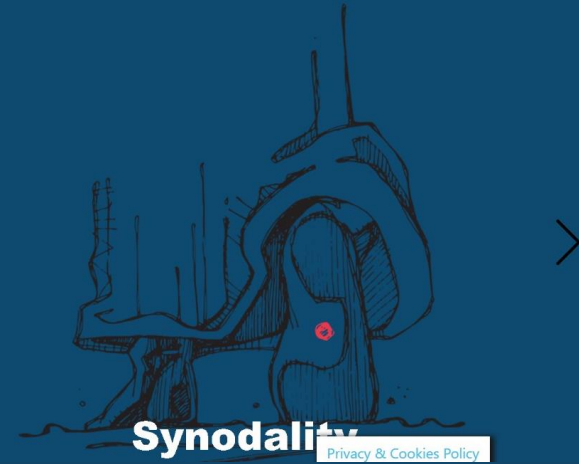
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COURSE

## INTRODUCING SYNODALITY

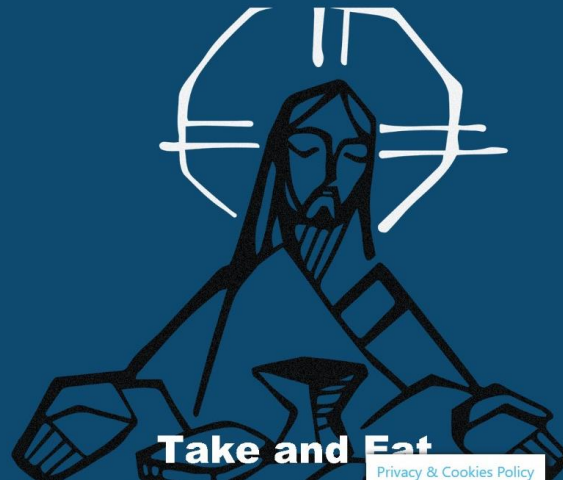
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COURSE

## MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

[LEARN MORE](#)



COURSE

## PATHWAYS TO MINISTRY

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# JOINING ACCORD

Home » Joining Accord

## ACCORD MARRIAGE EDUCATION FACILITATOR

Are you interested in becoming a Marriage Education Facilitator with Ireland's leading provider of Marriage Preparation Programmes?

Would you like, as part of a team, to meet couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church and share part of their very special journey?

Our training will provide you with A Special Purpose Award from the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College Maynooth on Successful Completion of the Certificate Initial Training Programme.

ACCORD Facilitators work as a team, with groups, encouraging couples to engage in conversation with each other, discuss relevant topics, and consider their future plans.

This is all done in a very secure, confidential, non threatening environment.

The role of Facilitator is to act as an impartial presence, assisting and guiding the group process. He /She will facilitate and manage group activities and discussions

### NAVIGATION

**Overview** ▶

Becoming A Counsellor ▶

Becoming A Facilitator ▶

External Supervisors ▶

Recruitment Policy ▶

### GET IN TOUCH

Name

Email



# Diversity & Complementarity

Lay pastoral ministries provide '*a special complementary capacity for service*', in partnership with the teaching, sanctifying and governing functions of ordained ministry.

Pope John Paul II – Instructions on certain questions regarding the collaboration of the non-ordained faithful in the sacred ministry of priest (1997)



# Mercy & Patience

*'the role of the lay pastoral minister as the one who accompanies other disciples with mercy and patience'*

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 44.

**Encouragement**

*Prayer*

**LISTENING**

**RELATIONSHIP**

*Empathy*

*Acceptance*

*Loving*

**Support**

**Compassion**

**CARING**

# What is involved?





**Is this a  
good fit  
for me?**

**Does it fit  
with who I  
am?**

**Would it  
give me  
life?**

**What gifts  
and strengths  
do I bring to  
this ministry?**

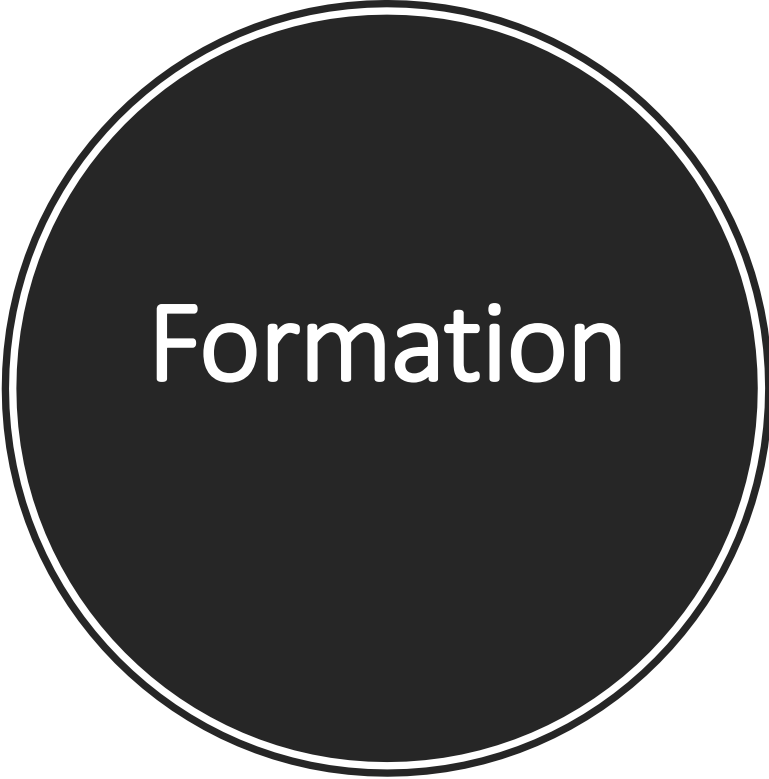
*Those who are  
discerning  
their  
vocation*



**Will it help  
me to grow,  
to develop?**

**Am I open to  
learning... to  
reflecting on  
experience?**

**Can I work well  
with others?**



# Three Different Forms Here

1. Expression of Interest Form for Short Courses (**WHITE**)
2. Application Form for **Formation in Ministry of Catechist (BLUE)**
3. Application Form for **Formation in Ministry of Pastoral Care (GREEN)**

Can also e-mail [pdw@ferns.ie](mailto:pdw@ferns.ie) for an application form





thank you THANK YOU

THANKS *in appreciation* thanks!

THANKS *Thank* WITH THANKS thank you

THAN YOU thanks

THANK YOU *sincere thanks*  
*many thanks* thank you very much thank you

THANKS

thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you

