

What is a Vocation?

Everyone has a vocation and discovering our vocation is a part of our journey of faith.

There are three distinctive parts to our vocation as defined by the National Office for Vocations.

1. The Universal Call to Holiness.
2. The Call to a Way of Life
3. The Call to Work



The Universal Call to Holiness

From the moment of our conception God calls each one of us. God calls us to listen to him so that we will come to know and experience his great love for us and he calls us with the hope that we will respond to his call.

The word vocation comes from the Latin word 'vocare' meaning 'to call.'

VOCATION

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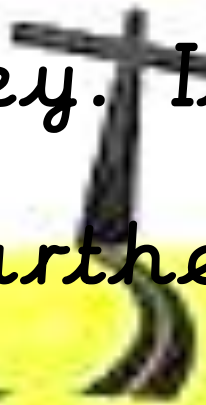
How does God call us?

God calls us and reveals himself to us in a number of ways through:

- the Sacraments
- Scripture
- liturgy and prayer
- the actions of others.



In Baptism, we begin our Vocation journey. It is strengthened by the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist and further developed in Confirmation.



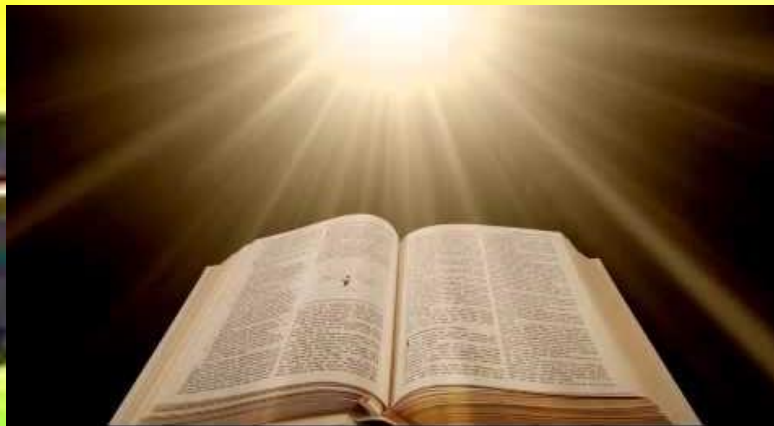
Prayer

Our personal relationship with God forms the foundation of our vocation journey. Prayer is as much about listening as it is about asking, praising, saying sorry and giving thanks. It is important that we have the self-discipline to allow there to be time and space in our lives for prayer.



Scripture

The holy Scriptures gives us many examples of those people of God who listened to his call. In the Gospels, we encounter the person of Jesus Christ who, as the Son of God, provides that perfect model through both his words and actions of how we are to be holy.



The Saints

The lives of the saints' model for us a variety of ways in which God's call was heard and answered. Our school saints have made powerful comments about their vocation.

Mary Mother of Jesus-Nursery

"I am the Lord's servant.

May this happen to me as you have said."

St Joseph Husband of Mary- Reception

St Joseph faithfully fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus, and Mary.



The Saints



St Francis of Assisi-Year 1
"This is what I want, this is what I desire with all my heart."



St Bernadette-Year 2
"I have prayed much to know if I'm called to religious life. I believe the answer is yes. I would like to enter the congregation if I am accepted."



St Anthony of Padua-Year 3
"I would gladly put on the habit of your order if you would promise to send me as soon as possible to the land of the Saracens, that I may gain the crown of the Holy Martyrs."

The Saints

St Lucy-Year 4

When she was young, she made a vow to God, that she would stay a virgin and only serve him.

St Thomas More-Year 5

"I am the King's good servant but God's first."

St Teresa of Calcutta-Year 6

"By blood I am Albanian. By citizenship, Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the heart of Jesus."



The Call to a Way of Life

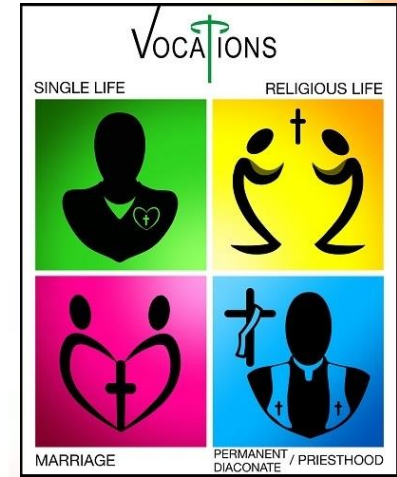
This aspect of vocation refers to the choices we make about how we want to live our lives. It is about becoming the person that God is calling us to be and how, as a member of the Church, we are going to serve God and serve others. When we come to make choices about our way of life it has to be done so within our relationship with God.



The Call to a Way of Life

There are four states of life which people are called to:

- Marriage
- Single Life
- Priesthood
- Religious Life



Marriage and Holy Orders are recognised as Sacraments of Mission because people choose, through discernment, to follow these particular ways of life.

Religious life and the single life, although they are not Sacramental they are an important part of the Church.

The Call to Work

God calls people to many different kinds of work, ranging from paid work to care of family members. Work on its own does not give meaning to life however; it is human beings who make work meaningful. 'Work constitutes one of the fundamental dimensions of a person's earthly existence and of their vocation.'

Vocation Prayer

Father, you created me and put me on earth for a purpose.

Jesus, you died for me and called me to complete your work.

Holy Spirit, you help me to carry out the work
for which I have been created and called.

In your presence and name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

I offer this day to you.

May all my thoughts, actions and words have their origin in you
and be directed to your glory. Amen.

