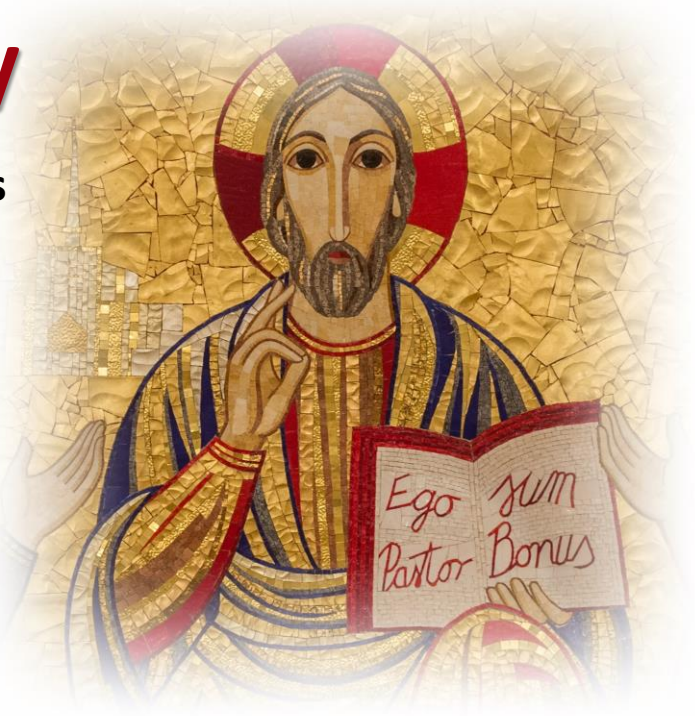
Vocations Sunday

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

8th May 2022



The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday, and is dedicated as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Church sets aside this day each year to fulfil Jesus' instruction ***to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest"*** *(Matthew 9:38).*

While every person has a vocation in life, we focus at this time to pray for vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life. The opening line from the Gospel passage for this year is: *"The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me."* We pray that those whom the Lord is calling, may be able to lower the noise of distraction in their lives in order that they may hear the whisper of the Lord's voice in their hearts calling them to follow him.

Preaching on Vocations Sunday

General Intercessions

Prayers for Vocations

Newsletter, Bulletin and Social Media Inserts

National Vocations Office
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

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Preaching on Vocations Sunday

Gospel John 10:27-30

Jesus said:
'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

Family Mass
Teach Your Children to Use GPS

Most children today will be familiar with tools like GPS (Global Positioning System), such as using Google Maps to find directions to places. Most likely they have seen their parents using google maps or the navigation system in their cars.

At the family mass ask the children questions like "What do you want to be when you grow up" and follow this with "What do you think God wants you to be?" Let the children know that God has a plan for each of them and that they will be happy if they follow God's plan. All our decisions in life should be guided by asking God in prayer to guide us. Through prayer we can navigate our way through life. Asking God for his direction is like using a GPS – **G**od's **P**ositioning **S**ystem.

Adult Mass

In the Gospel, Jesus stresses the importance of listening to his voice and promises that those who listen and follow, will never be lost and will have eternal life. We can only hear the Lord's voice by making space for quiet and prayer.

Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Young people, if they can be taught how to pray, can be trusted to know what to do with God's call."

There are many forms of prayer. Perhaps in your homily at mass on Vocations Sunday, talk about prayer, methods of prayer, and the importance of listening for God's voice, especially when making big decisions in life.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS OFFICE
IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

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Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter or Good Shepherd Sunday is a special day for everyone in our parish and our Diocese as we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray in thanksgiving today for our Bishop, Priests, Religious and Deacons and for an increase in vocations in the Church. May our youth listen to God's call and be encouraged to respond generously.

General Intercessions

Presider: Let us present our needs and the needs of the Church as we seek the loving care and guidance of our Good Shepherd.

That we may listen intently to the voice of the Good Shepherd and have the courage to live out our baptismal call to be witnesses of the Gospel.
Lord, hear us:

For young people;
Our young people today face so many pressures through social media and peer groups. We pray that they may know and experience God's love for them and that they may find direction in their lives. As they discern God's call, may they be able to respond with open and generous hearts.
Lord, hear us:

For young men and women;
That they may seek to listen to the voice of the Lord and have the gift of understanding to discern their vocation in life, and that they will have the courage to follow His call.
Lord, hear us:

Prayer for those who are in formation
Lord we pray for those who are in formation for priesthood and religious life. Enlighten our Bishops and Religious superiors in their choice of candidates, and support and guide those already in formation in seminary and religious houses.
Lord, hear us:

Presider: Loving God, we ask you to hear our prayers and we trust that you will give us what we need. Shepherd us and guide us to follow in your ways now and forever. Amen.

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Prayers For Vocations

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father,
we ask you to send labourers into your harvest
and to bless all who strive to listen to your voice.
Inspire, in the hearts of men and women,
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and
consecrated life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity,
so that those whom you call have the courage
to give themselves to your Church in faith.

Send workers into Your great harvest
so that the Gospel is preached,
the poor are served with love,
the suffering are comforted,
and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

MARIAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church,
You know, the struggles, doubts and obstacles
that those who are discerning a vocation face.
As you gave your "yes" to the Lord's call
Assist those your Son is calling
to answer Yes to the divine call,
as you did at the invitation of the angel.
Amen

PRAYER TO DISCOVER YOUR VOCATION

Lord, You formed me in my mother's womb
and have loved me into being.
You have made me to know you,
To love you, and to serve you,
And thereby to find and fulfil myself.

Since I will do what you want of me,
I ask that you send your Holy Spirit to me;
that I may discern what you want of me
and that I may have the courage
to follow the path you are calling me to follow
And to follow it with all my love, with all my mind,
And with all my strength, right to the end.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS

Lord, bless and guide those who are
preparing for the priesthood.
Help them remain faithful to prayer,
to their studies and spiritual direction.
Protect them from temptation,
and enflame their hearts with love
so they may one day become
ardent and gentle shepherds
for Your Church.
Amen

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Newsletter, Bulletin & Social Media Inserts

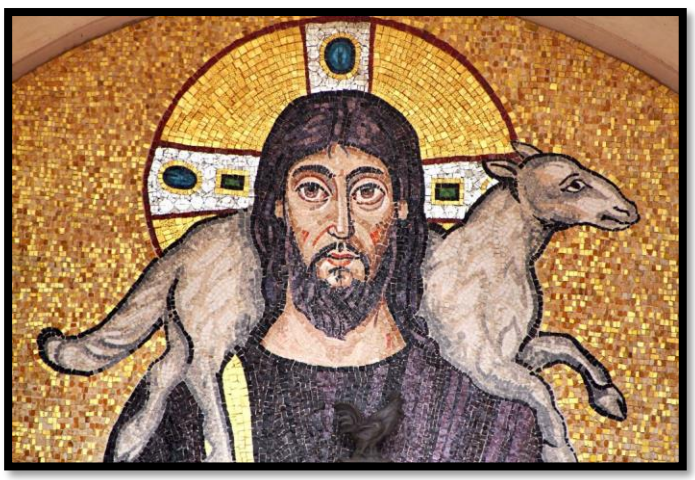
BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER INSERTS

As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people.

Sunday 8th May 2022 is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It is also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The Lord asked his disciples to *"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest"* (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

Pray also for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

As a priest your ministry is not only at the altar,
but it is also in the world,
sanctifying it by your life and ministry.
Archbishop Dermot Farrell

For a Christian, a vocation
is not something God calls us to do,
it is also the person God calls us to be.
Father Stephen Wang

Discerning a vocation is now firmly counter cultural. No longer is it simply a matter of leaving it to a seminary; there has to be proper accompaniment every step of the way.
In Ireland, we who love our faith need to have the courage to create a new culture of vocations.
Bishop Denis Nulty

As a priest
Priests are at the frontline caring for the sick, the bereaved, and staying with their people during war.
Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan

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