



## Take the Risk for Christ Year of Vocation for Diocesan Priesthood



### A Lot Done – A Lot More To Do

The year for vocation to the diocesan priesthood has been very busy. Commencing in April with the **Evangelisation and Vocation Conference** with **Archbishop Reno Fisichella** from the Dicastery for Evangelisation which had a packed-out attendance in the Renehan Hall. This conference received considerable coverage and reporting in both print and on-line media platforms.

This was followed by the Mass for Vocations Sunday which was broadcast on RTE One Television. RTE News also produced a four-minute video news report which was aired on the News At 9 on RTE and on the RTE News App.

In November, we hosted in collaboration with the seminary in Maynooth a “**Come and See**” discernment weekend, which had an attendance of 36 men.

In August, we were approached by **Scratch Media** who were contacted by RTE to produce a documentary on “**The Last Priest in Ireland**”. They were aware of our special “**Year for Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood**”. We proposed that they record an event in Knock which would see a gathering of representatives from every diocese at a prayer service for vocations and the blessing of a specially commissioned Vocations Cross.



Fr. Willie Purcell was also interviewed by Ardal O’Hanlon along with Fr. Vincent Stapleton. The documentary and the follow-up panel discussion on the “**Upfront with Katie Hannon**” generated a significant awareness and conversation across the country about priesthood, vocations and the future for the church. One thing that is more apparent, is the general view that priests are valued and appreciated by the wider community.

At our recent meeting of Diocesan Vocation directors in Maynooth in January, a considerable number of the vocation directors present reported that they have seen an increase in the number of enquiries about priesthood compared to previous years.

So, a lot has been done, but there is a lot more to do. On the following pages you will learn of some of the event and activities planned from now up to the end of the “year” on Vocations Sunday, April 21, 2024

Deacon Eric Cooney

# TAKE THE RISK FOR CHRIST

*Year for Vocation  
to the Diocesan Priesthood*



## Key Events - January - April



NATIONAL VOCATIONS OFFICE  
IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

- Catholic Schools Week (Jan 21 to 27)
- Divine Mercy Conference (Feb 23 to 25)
- Webinar: **THE LAST PRIEST IN IRELAND – DEPENDS ON YOU!** (March 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Diocesan Vocation Directors – Conference in Knock (Mar 7-8)
- Seminary Pilgrimage to Clonmacnoise (April 14)
- National Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations (April 20/21)
- Televised Mass for Vocations Sunday (April 21)

## Ongoing Resources

Increased Social Media

Scriptural Themed Prayer of the Faithful

Rosary for Vocations





## HOOK OF FAITH WEBINAR



  NATIONAL VOCATIONS OFFICE  
IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

### THE LAST PRIEST IN IRELAND? IT DEPENDS ON YOU!

Are you concerned about the decline in Vocations?  
What can I do to promote Vocations?  
What else can be done?

The National Vocations Office in collaboration with The Hook of Faith are running an online (Zoom) Webinar

**Tuesday 5th March**  
**8 pm to 9 pm**

**Keynote Speaker – Breda O'Brien**



To register for this webinar simply email: [thehookoffaith@gmail.com](mailto:thehookoffaith@gmail.com)

[www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)  
All Are Welcome

 NATIONAL VOCATIONS OFFICE  
IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

TAKE THE RISK FOR CHRIST  
Year for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood  
[vocations.ie](http://vocations.ie)

The recent broadcast of the documentary on RTE “The Last Priest in Ireland” and the subsequent “Upfront with Katie Hannon” generated a considerable national discussion about the church, priesthood and vocations.

Many people of faith around the country often ask about vocations to the priesthood.

- What is being done?
- What can be done?
- What can they do to promote vocations?
- What is likely to happen in the future?

The aim of this webinar is to give air to many of these questions and to provide encouragement and suggestions to those who are concerned about vocations as to how they can create a culture of vocations in their parishes.

## Diocesan Vocation Directors National Conference

**Knock House Hotel**  
**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> & Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Supporting the Ministry  
of the  
Vocation Director

We are pleased to announce that on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of March in the Knock House Hotel, we will host a conference for our National Diocesan Vocation Directors.



**Cardinal Lazarus You Heung-sik**, Prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Clergy assisted by **Monsignor Eamonn McLaughlin** from the Vatican Dicastery for Clergy will address the conference. .

The Conference will commence at 11 am on the Thursday morning (coffee and registration from 10:30 am) and will conclude on the Friday @ 4 pm.

There will be the option for Vocation Directors who wish to arrive a day early on the Wednesday, to take some personal time for quiet reflection and prayer and thereby benefit from not having to travel early in the morning on the Thursday to arrive for the start of the conference.

For further information contact Deacon Eric Cooney in the National Vocations Office.

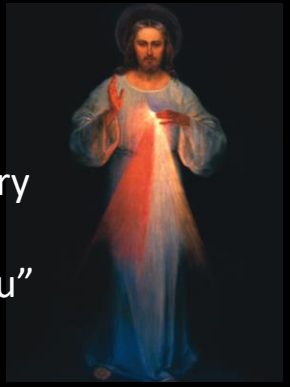


## Divine Mercy Conference

RDS Main Hall

23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February

“Jesus, I Trust in You”



This year the National Vocations Office will have a presence in the Divine Mercy Conference which takes place in the RDS Main Hall. This will provide us with an opportunity to engage with those who are committed to their faith and to encourage them to pray for vocations to the diocesan priesthood.



## Seminary Pilgrimage



On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April we will travel with the seminarians and formation staff of St. Patrick’s College Maynooth to the Monastic site of Clonmacnoise.

## Adoration for Vocations



It is proposed that on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) that there will be an outpouring of prayer for Vocations before the Blessed Sacrament

### 40 Hours Adoration for Vocations

Some parishes are opting for a 40 hours for vocations, spreading the 40 hours over three days, for example two days of 15 hours (6 am to 9 pm) and one day of 10 hours 12 noon to 10 pm.

### Holy Hour for Vocations

Other diocese are planning to have a holy hour either before their vigil mass for Vocation Sunday, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April or after their last mass on Vocations on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**RTE Religious**

The “Year for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood” will conclude on Vocations Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> April) which will mark the 61<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The mass will be broadcast on RTE One Television.





# Prayer of the Faithful

SCRIPTURE THEMED INTERCESSIONS

FOR VOCATIONS

Lent 2024



## TAKE THE RISK FOR CHRIST

Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood

### First Sunday of Lent – 18th February 2024

We pray for vocations and for those who are being called to discern a vocation to the priesthood, the diaconate or religious life. Today's Psalm says *"Lord, make me know your ways ... teach me your paths ... make me walk in your truth... for you are God my saviour"*. We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide those who are being called to discover their vocation.

### Second Sunday of Lent – 25th February -2024

In our first reading we read that *"God put Abraham to the test"*. Abraham responds with complete trust *"Here I am"*. We pray for those discerning a vocation that they may have the grace and strength to trust in God and respond like Abraham – "Here I am".

### Third Sunday of Lent – 3rd March 2024

To proclaim your faith and belief in God in today's society is counter cultural. So too in St Paul's day – proclaiming belief in Jesus who was crucified was an obstacle to the Jews and madness to the Greeks. We pray that those who the Lord calls to follow Him as a priest, deacon or religious, to proclaim the Gospel will have the courage to place their trust in God.

### Fourth Sunday of Lent 10th March 2024

In our Gospel St. John tells us that *God sent His Son so that the world might be saved through Him* and Jesus is the light in the darkness of the world. We pray for those who the Lord calls to bring the light of faith to those in darkness, that they will respond to the call of Jesus to follow as a priest, deacon or religious.

### Fifth Sunday of Lent – 17th March 2024 - Solemnity - St. Patrick

In today's Gospel some Greeks came *"to see Jesus"*. In reply Jesus tells them that *"unless a wheat grain falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest"*. We pray for those who are called to follow the Lord as a priest, deacon or religious, that like St. Patrick, they may "Take the Risk for Christ" and give of their lives and follow in the Way of Jesus.

### Passion Sunday – 24th March 2024

In our first reading, Isaiah tells us *"Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen as a disciple"* – we pray that those whom the Lord calls to follow His as a priest, deacon or religious, may hear the gentle whisper of God's call amid the noise of this life.

