

Volunteering for Lay Ministry in The Parish of Avoca (Avoca, Templerainey, Ballycoog, Barranisky)

September 2024

Called and Gifted to Serve: An Invitation to Lay Ministry

To all Parishioners of the Parish of Avoca:

Parishes are in transition from being Priest-led to becoming Lay-led.

Lay Ministry is central to this transition.

Lay Ministry roles are crucial to equip the Parish for the road ahead. There is no other way. Indeed, there is more - our Faith tells us that this is the way God is calling the Church to follow Jesus the Christ today. Pope Francis says the ministeriality of the Church regards all the faithful.

All Ministry, Lay and Ordained, is about service. Ministry is the way in which the Church continues what Jesus began and still intends, namely, the salvation of humanity and the transformation of the world. All baptised and confirmed Christians receive a Call and Gifts enabling them to participate in the Mission Jesus began. All Ministries flow from Baptism and Confirmation. Through anointing at Baptism and Confirmation, we all share in the Priestly ministry of Jesus the Christ. This was highlighted by the Second Vatican Council which emphasised *full, active and conscious participation* of all the faithful in the life and ministry of the Church.

We now need to enhance Ministries already in place and to develop new Ministries.

All the Baptised are called and gifted by God to serve the needs of the Parish.

Pope Francis says that all the Baptised are called to be Missionary Disciples.

Volunteering in the Parish can bring many blessings: make new friends, develop new skills, gain confidence, develop your Faith and accompany others on their Faith Journey.

Each Volunteer will be fully trained and provided with resources to help in their Ministry.

Ongoing training and formation will be provided for every Volunteer.

All Volunteers who work with Children or Vulnerable Adults must be Garda Vetted and complete Safeguarding Training.

You may already be in active ministry in the Parish, and you may wish to renew your commitment.

Please consider the list of Lay Ministries on the other page.

Pray and reflect on where God may be calling you to share your gifts and talents.

Please indicate the Ministry you think would suit your gifts.

For now, see this as an expression of your desire to explore this opportunity a little further.

Please give the Form to the Parish Office, the Sacristy, Parochial House Post Box or to me.

You can also submit it Online: Go to the Parish Website Homepage and click on Lay Ministry.

I will make contact with you, and a process of discernment will follow.

Thank you for your support of the Parish of Avoca.

Fr Michael.

avocaparish.com