

How do I apply to become a priest?

One possibility is to begin by having a word with one of the priests in your own parish. Alternatively, you can contact the diocesan vocations director. Every Diocese in Ireland has a director of vocations. If you want to find out more and explore your vocation, you are most welcome to call and talk things over. Could God be calling you?



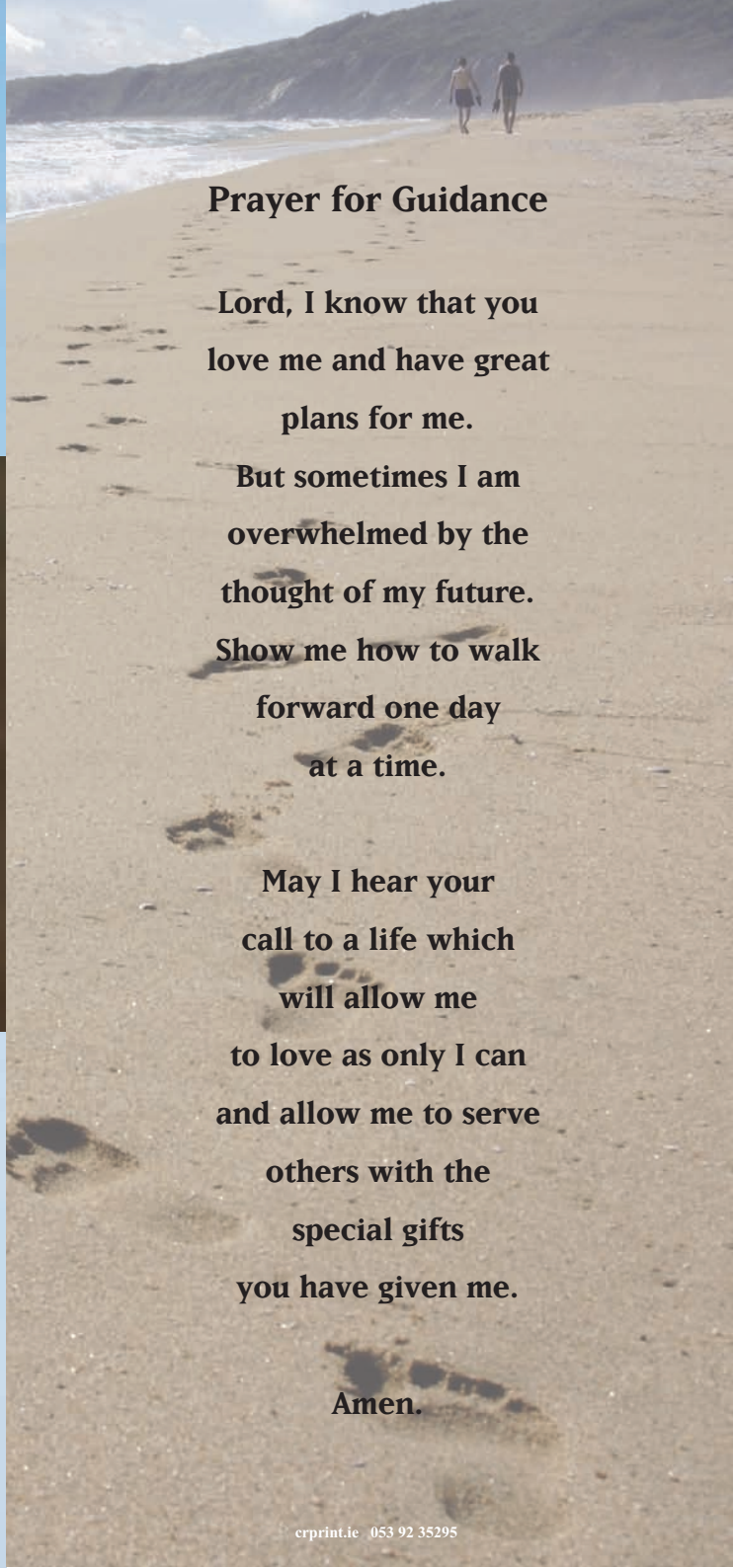
To talk things over:

For more information on vocations to the priesthood or religious life in the Diocese of Ferns, contact:

Fr. Jim Finn, 087 211 9151

or the Diocesan Office 053 9122177

or visit www.ferns.ie



Prayer for Guidance

**Lord, I know that you
love me and have great
plans for me.**

**But sometimes I am
overwhelmed by the
thought of my future.
Show me how to walk
forward one day
at a time.**

**May I hear your
call to a life which
will allow me
to love as only I can
and allow me to serve
others with the
special gifts
you have given me.**

Amen.

**“If you are what you should be,
you will set the whole world on fire!”**

(St. Catherine of Sienna)



**Is God
Calling You?**

www.ferns.ie

What is a Priest?

All baptised Christians, led by the Spirit of Jesus, are called to be His witnesses both in what we say and in how we live. In that way, we literally re-present Him. Baptism is not just something that happens to us; it is about what we become. We become members of the body of Christ. To use the words of St. Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body now, but yours."

Priests represent Christ in a particular way when they celebrate the Eucharist, and also when they preach the Gospel or celebrate the other sacraments. Through the sacrament of Holy Orders a priest, in spite of his own human limitations and even his personal sinfulness, "becomes Christ" for the people. This is not just a matter of imitating Christ or taking his place. We believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit, it is Christ himself who teaches, feeds, heals, and forgives His people, in the ministry of the priest.



What are Diocesan Priests?

A Diocese is the Christian community of a particular area which is placed under the care of a Bishop. The Diocese of Ferns incorporates Co. Wexford and parts of Wicklow and Carlow, and has a population of about 120,000.

Each Diocese is made up of a number of parishes. These are the local communities in which people live out their faith supported by one another and by the priests who are sent by the Bishop to minister among them. Most diocesan priests are engaged in parish ministry. Diocesan priests look after the day to day spiritual needs of the people of a particular Diocese. They work as part of a team led by the Bishop who has overall responsibility for the diocese. This is a ministry which has been going on since the time of the Apostles.

How do I know that I am being called to be a Priest?

There is no simple answer to this question. Each one of us has a different calling in life, and some are more certain than others of their own personal calling. The following words from Pope John Paul II explain his sense of calling.

"I am often asked, especially by young people, why I became a priest. Maybe some of you would like to ask the same question. Let me try briefly to reply. I must begin by saying that it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what he had said to thousands before me: 'Come, follow me!' There was a clear sense that what I heard in my heart was no human voice, nor was it just an idea of my own. Christ was calling me to serve him as a priest. "And you can probably tell that I am deeply grateful to God for my vocation to the priesthood. Nothing means more to me or gives me greater joy than to celebrate Mass each day and to serve God's people in the Church. That has been true ever since the day of my ordination as a priest. Nothing has ever changed this, not even becoming Pope."

(Los Angeles, USA, September 14, 1987)

