



GOD IS CALLING

'THE GLORY OF GOD IS A HUMAN BEING FULLY ALIVE'
ST IRENAEUS



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IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT?

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What is a Lay Pastoral Assistant?

A Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) is trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church, working as part of a team of clergy and laity. Each individual's ministry will vary according to their gifts and skills and according to the local situation. But in all cases, the ministry of an LPA calls for a loving and compassionate heart and a willingness to listen to and support those in need.

The ministry of an LPA holds a crucial place within the life of the local church, relying on good relationships with both clergy and the wider community. For this reason, LPAs are invited into ministry by their parish priest and their calling is affirmed by the local church.

What do Lay Pastoral Assistants do?

The ministry of an individual will depend on their skills and gifts and on their local context. However, the ministry of an LPA may include ...

- Visiting people at home or in hospital
- Working with children and young people
- Visiting and supporting the recently bereaved
- Leading small groups
- Helping to prepare people for baptism, confirmation and marriage
- Leading worship in sheltered and residential homes
- Administering the sacrament to people in their home or in hospital

Could it be you?

As the ministry of a Lay Pastoral Assistant can be so varied, people will bring with them many gifts some of which may be very specific. However, everyone considering, or being considered for the ministry of a Lay Pastoral Assistant, will have some of the following:-

- A love for other people and a commitment to their local church
- An ability to demonstrate pastoral sensitivity with good listening skills
- A commitment to work within the local team of clergy, other ministers and LPAs
- A willingness to minister prayerfully
- A willingness to attend initial training and to take part in continuing ministerial development

What can I do next?

Ask God in prayer ... how you may become all that God intends you to be and how best you may serve him.

Reflect on your gifts ... are you able to engage with people? Are you someone with caring skills and a willingness to support others?

Talk to your parish priest or chaplain ... who will be able to advise you.

Attend a Diocesan Vocations Day ... held regularly throughout the year. Details are available for your parish priest or from the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Team at the address or telephone number overleaf.

