

## What training is offered?

The training will include:

- Prayer and Spirituality [Spiritual accompaniment and days of recollection]
- Pastoral Formation [*Placement and training in ministry*]
- Personal Development (mentoring and personal growth)
- Study (Successfully complete a Diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Level 7, at St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth over a two-year period).
- Facilitation/Group work [*developing skills for working with groups and as part of a team*]

The programme will be delivered over 2 years, eight weekends per year beginning in Maynooth and thereafter, in locations in the Diocese of Kilmore.

## Is this for me? Should I enquire further?

These questions may help your reflection:

- *Do you work well with others?*
- *Have you developed skills in other aspects of your life that could contribute to this ministry?*
- *Are you willing to reflect on your own faith journey, and participate in learning with others?*
- *Do you like working on your own initiative and completing a task?*

There will be a selection process as places are limited. More information will be provided at our meetings throughout the Diocese.



### Pope Francis

*"We need lay people who are formed well, animated by a clear and sincere faith, whose lives have been touched by a personal and merciful encounter with the love of Jesus Christ.*

*We need lay people who take risks, who soil their hands, who are not afraid of making mistakes, who move forward.*

*We need lay people with a vision of the future...."*

Pope Francis to the Pontifical Council for the Laity  
(June 17, 2016)

### Where to from here?

Attend one of our Information evenings, held throughout the diocese or online:

**Wednesday 4th September at 7.30 pm**

The Rainbow Centre, Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim F91 RK54

**Tuesday 10th September at 7.30 pm**

The Courthouse Business Centre, Main Street, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan A82 HH58

**Tuesday 17th September at 8 pm**

Island Theatre, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim N41 KOD6

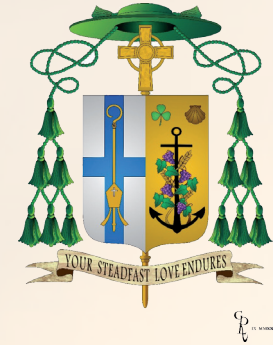
**Tuesday 24th September at 7.30 pm**

Online Zoom session: Register in advance by emailing Sean at [directorkdpc@kilmorediocese.ie](mailto:directorkdpc@kilmorediocese.ie)

**Wednesday 25th September at 7.30 pm**

Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Co. Cavan H12 E5C7

For more information, Martina Gilmartin on **085 864 0299**  
email: [pastoralservices@kilmorediocese.ie](mailto:pastoralservices@kilmorediocese.ie)



DIOCESE OF  
**KILMORE**

Ministry of  
**Lay Pastoral Worker**  
(Diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Level 7)



## Introduction

I am delighted to place before you an opportunity for lay ministry. Each one of us, by our Baptism, is called to fulfil a mission in the Catholic Church. That call will emerge for each one of us in different ways and at different times as we journey through the different stages of our lives.



I believe that the Holy Spirit is at this time calling some people to become lay pastoral ministers. It means supporting them in their Baptismal calling as active members of their parish communities.

The need for lay pastoral workers was identified by way of our parish conversations during Autumn 2023 when we asked, “What kind of skills and tasks should a Training Programme being prepared for Lay Pastoral Workers focus on?” The fruits of that conversation are outlined in this invitation to lay pastoral ministry.

Therefore, I am asking you to consider how you could contribute to the faith development and life of our parishes into the future. The role of a lay pastoral minister requires people with ‘people’ skills of leadership, facilitation, listening, empathy, coordination and training, i.e., in effect, to be team builders alert to the gifts of parish volunteers and of our priests.

We give thanks for ‘our conversations about our faith’, i.e., our synodal journey and its fruits. May we continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit, with this lay pastoral ministry initiative, and as we journey together as the People of God.

✠ *Martin Hayes, Bishop of Kilmore.*

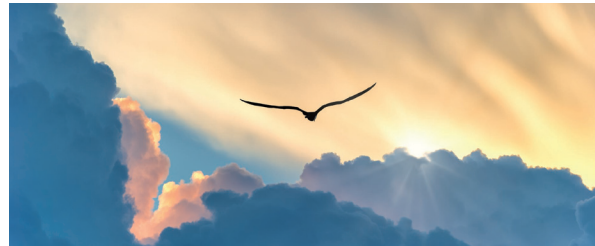
## Programme Details

### Background

This programme has been designed and developed in the Kilmore Diocese in association with St. Patrick’s Pontifical University, Maynooth.

It provides training for those who have a calling to Lay Pastoral Ministry in the areas of Pastoral Care and Nurturing Faith. The programme,

- promotes the personal and spiritual development of the participants and an awareness of the cultural context in which they will minister,
- ensures that participants are exposed to relevant academic content alongside the necessary pastoral skills by way of a placement in a parish setting and
- nurtures theological reflection to ensure an integration of practical experience and academic content by the participant.



### Duration

The programme runs for 30 months in total; one weekend per month (Friday evening and all-day Saturday for 8 weekends per annum). It begins in January 2025 with a six-month discernment phase, after which the participant enrolls in the Diploma programme in Pastoral Ministry awarded by St. Patrick’s Pontifical University, Maynooth.

## What is the Role of the Lay Pastoral Worker?

The key role of the Lay Pastoral Worker is to co-ordinate pastoral activity with a focus upon either one of the areas of Pastoral Care or Nurturing Faith as follows;

### Pastoral Care

- **Coordination of Parish Visitation** of the housebound/elderly/those in nursing homes; supporting nursing home staff and residents to celebrate moments of prayer.
- **Funeral Ministry:** assist in organising funerals, prayers at home, reception of remains into the church and with bereavement ministry.
- **Training:** training of Parish Volunteers in teamwork.

### Nurturing Faith

- **Baptismal training:** providing baptismal training to new parents and the training of Baptism Course leaders.
- **Schools:** providing the link to parish in supporting teachers in the delivery of Religious Education programmes in Schools from Preschool to Secondary.
- **Faith Development:** developing and delivering Faith Development initiatives with parents to include Sacramental Preparation courses.