

Priesthood

"The person of Jesus Christ is the sole focus of our lives together. Everything we do comes from this essential foundation. As seminarians come to recognise more deeply that Christ is the unifying principle of our lives as individuals and our common life together, they devote themselves more wholeheartedly in the shared brotherhood of disciples all sharing the one vision."

About

A priest is someone called by Christ and sent out into the world to be a shepherd after His own Heart.

A Catholic priest is a man who has been called by God to live *in persona Christi* – in the person of Christ. In simple terms, that means that when a man is ordained a priest, he receives a permanent mark on his soul – similar to the mark we all receive at baptism – that changes him forever and makes it possible for him to perform certain actions that otherwise only Jesus could perform. A priest's primary purpose is to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, and to feed God's people with the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, which the Church has always understood to be the main way that Christ's death on the Cross is made available to people. Only a validly ordained priest can give this great gift to the world.

St. John Vianney, the holy priest whom the Church calls the patron saint of all priests, once said, "The priest will not understand the greatness of his office until he is in heaven. If he understood it on earth, he would die, not of fear, but of love." The point he is making is that what happens when a man is ordained to the priesthood is that he becomes so much like Jesus, it's hard for our minds and hearts to really understand it. And when a priest performs his ministry, he is doing it in the name and with the divine power of Jesus.

Discerning

A suitable candidate for Diocesan Priesthood will have Jesus Christ central to his life.

What part does the Eucharist play in my life at the moment?

How, and for how long do I pray?

A suitable candidate for the Diocesan Priesthood will not only want to serve others but will be involved in some kind of ministry in his parish.

How involved are you in my parish?

What leadership role do I have now?

A suitable candidate for the Diocesan Priesthood will be capable of tertiary studies as the studies involved include Theology and Philosophy.

Have I satisfactorily completed my secondary schooling?

Do I have a desire for further learning?

What evidence do I have that indicates that I am capable of tertiary study?

A suitable candidate for the Diocesan Priesthood will be a good communicator, ready to listen deeply to another, ready to initiate conversation where necessary, ready to put himself out to be of service.

In what ways do I listen to others? Am I willing to take the first step towards another, even if I feel shy or even a bit embarrassed?

Am I willing to let go of what I am doing to help another if needed?

A suitable candidate for the Diocesan Priesthood will already be mixing with priests.

Am I on friendly terms with my Parish Priest? Other priests?

How familiar am I with what is asked of a Diocesan Priest?

A suitable candidate for the Diocesan Priesthood will be capable of living as a celibate. In the Catholic Tradition, celibacy for Diocesan Priests is required.

Have I been in a sexual relationship with another? For how long have I been living as a celibate person?

How do I deal with loneliness?

At this stage of my life, what do I consider difficult about life-long celibacy?

What qualities do I have that I believe will make me a good priest?

What areas of life do I need to work at so that I can be a good priest?

If you think and feel that God may be calling you to dedicate yourself to God's service through leadership and service of God's people then NOW is the time for ACTION. Contact you Parish Priest, or your Diocesan Vocations Director and have a chat with them about your desire.

For more questions about the priesthood, ask your local [Diocesan Vocations Director](#) or

If you are interested in the priesthood, you may want to learn about our [Seminaries](#) all over Australia