

# TO THE Heights

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and Supporting the Catholic faith in our post-primary schools and amongst our young people.

 ascendwaterfordlismore.ym

 AscendWaterfordLismoreYM

 Ascend Youth Ministry



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie



Stained glass: Alfred Handel, d. 1946[2], photo:Toby Hudson, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

Year B

## Sunday Mass Readings

### First Reading:

Acts 4:8-12

### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 117 (118):1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

### Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-2

### Gospel:

John 10:11-18

*I am the Good Shepherd.  
I know my own  
and my own know me"*

## Pier Giorgio Frassati

Aleteia present a short eight chapter fictionalised series on Pier Giorgio Frassati!

Man of the Beatitudes

## CHAPTER 6



### Frassati Task:

Pier Giorgio had such a love for Our Lady; he was always willing to defend her honour and loved to pray the rosary. Pray to Our Lady every day this week!



## Hear




Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find the text here.

Or watch a short animation of today's Gospel.




- Did you ever play a Shepherd in a nativity play in primary school? What is our traditional image of shepherds?
- Did you know that in Jesus' day, shepherds were extremely tough men, who slept outdoors and had to protect their sheep from thieves and wolves. They usually slept at the gate of the sheep-pen, literally laying their lives down to protect their flock. How does this match with Jesus calling himself the "Good Shepherd"?
- Jesus said His sheep know Him and listen to His voice. Who or what are the thieves who try to steal away Jesus' flock do you think?
- What do you imagine the voice of Jesus sounds like?
- Why do you think Good Shepherd Sunday is the Sunday dedicated to praying for vocations to priesthood and religious life?



# Carlo's Corner

## WHAT'S MY VOCATION?

The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy. Carlo Acutis



What do you think you are called to do in life? To be a doctor? An architect? A teacher? Work in I.T. or marketing? Get married? Raise a family? Become a priest or a religious brother or sister? That last one can sound a bit off-putting at times. We can often (wrongly) associate a religious vocation with loneliness and giving up the things in life that make us happy. However, nothing could be further from the truth - if God is calling you to religious life, that is His plan for your maximum happiness! If he's calling you to marriage, then that's His plan for your maximum happiness. Ultimately, each of our vocations, or callings, is to be holy, to be a saint. Carlo Acutis understood this so well. At one stage he desired to be a priest, and yet he knew in his short life this would never be a possibility. Does that mean Carlo had no vocation? Absolutely not! He had a vocation to be a saint, and he lived out that vocation joyfully each day of his young life. Was it easy? Probably not. Was it worth it? Yes! He gained Heaven, and at the end of the day, that's what matters most. Pray to God to discover your vocation, because His plan for you is His plan for you to achieve heaven! Remember, holiness means happiness!

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Have the courage to really pray to God this week to help you to discover your vocation. Ask Him to guide you each day towards that goal, and take little steps along the path to holiness. Use the attached handouts to guide your understanding of vocations.

[Waterford & Lismore Vocations Video 2020](#)

[What's my Vocation? \(Fr Mike Schmitz\)](#)

## TUNE OF THE WEEK



### Today I Choose



(Brian Doerksen)



REVIVE

LIVE-STREAM EVENT FOR YOUTH



Live-streamed event for young people

## Gospel Reflection: THE GOOD SHEPHERD



Vocations Ireland Newsletter Issue 1

The sight of a shepherd leading his sheep would have been familiar to Jesus' listeners. We might be inclined to think that shepherding works the other way around but at that time in the Holy Land shepherds would lead their flock from the front rather than drive them from behind. Two things are important to notice about this image. First, following someone involves a free choice and, not only that, it someone requires trust and confidence in their ability to lead.

Jesus leads his flock away from dangers and into safe pastures. He is so committed to the welfare of each one of his sheep (each one of us!) that he is willing to lay down his life for them. Jesus wants to be our shepherd but he will never force us to follow him. He wants our decision to be his to be made freely out of love - not obligation or coercion. We too are free in our decision to allow Jesus be our shepherd. Jesus is so, so gentle with us. He is always waiting and always patient. He never gives up on us or gets frustrated by us. He is continuously seeking people out and inviting them to join with him. He really is a good shepherd. His plan for each one of us is that we would know with absolute certainty that we are loved and wanted by God - even when we go astray and wander off.

Sometimes this truth about Jesus can be difficult for us to accept and believe. We may have had experiences in the past where people we trusted deeply hurt us. If this happened within our family it can distort our image of Jesus. It can make it difficult to believe that He is good and to trust Him. It can also be difficult to trust Jesus when it means surrendering something to him. We might have to surrender a particular sin, or we might have to surrender control that we would hold onto.

Jesus only ever wants what is best for us but we have to want it for ourselves. Our true identity will only ever be found in Him and with Him. If we let Jesus lead us we will never have anything to fear. Let us begin to trust Jesus like never before. Trust that he is good. Trust that he is with you. Trust that when you wander off that He goes in search of you. Trust.

## TEACHER'S CORNER



**Quo Vadis: Catholic Zoom Series for Young Adults** aged 18-35. Sundays 7-8pm, April 11th - May 2nd. A four-part series on the inspirational of Sr Clare Crockett, presented by the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother.

**Contact** [events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie) or [click here](#)


**"Rooted": Lectio Divina Zoom Series** for adults who would like to learn to read and pray with Scripture. Wednesdays 8 - 9.15pm from May 5th - June 16th.

**Contact** [events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie)

**REVIVE Live-streamed event for Youth** Friday 30th April: 7.30 - 8.30 livestreamed on [www.holyfamilymission.ie](http://www.holyfamilymission.ie)

**More info:** [www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry)

## Young Person's Prayer



Lord, whatever you want me to do, grant me the grace to want that too. Give me the courage and give me the trust. Amen



## CHECK IT OUT: VOCATIONS IRELAND

Vocations Ireland is an office made up from members of the many Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests from Congregations, Societies, Contemplative and Missionary communities in Ireland. Our Mission is to discern, foster and encourage vocations to Religious and Missionary life.

**Diocese of Waterford & Lismore Vocation Directors:**

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DIOCESAN VOCATIONS



VIDEO 2020





# What is a Vocation?



OWSAD  
AUDREY

"RESTLESS"

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You. - St Augustine -

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ST AUGUSTINE MEANT BY THIS?



Christians believe that God has a unique plan for each person, a calling, specifically for each one of us. Another word for a calling is vocation. In the past, people only spoke about vocations when referring to priests or religious, like brothers or nuns. Now we understand that vocation is broader than that. You may have a calling to priesthood or religious life. Or you may be called to married life. You may be called to single life. Maybe you're called to be a doctor, or a teacher, or an engineer, or a salesperson, or an office worker. God's ultimate plan for each one of us is that we become saints, that we are holy and fulfil the maximum of his plan for us here on earth so we can enjoy eternal happiness with Him in Heaven. We achieve this by living out whatever calling God has for each of us, by offering up our lives for His greater glory. If you're called to be a teacher, be the best teacher you can be. If your vocation is to be a mom or dad, be the absolute best parent you can be! If your vocation right now is to be a student, be the best student you can be. God calls some people to priesthood or religious life. This is an amazing life of service to others! The idea can be daunting at first, but remember, whatever God is calling us to, that is His plan for the absolute maximum of our happiness!

## DO YOU THINK OF YOUR LIFE THIS WAY? IF NOT, WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE IF YOU DID?

### THOMAS MERTON VOCATION PRAYER



MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.



### FOLLOW ON ACTIVITIES:



- Pray for your local priest and don't be afraid to step up and help out where you can in your local parish!!
- If you know any Priests, Religious Brothers or Sisters, ask them to share their vocation story with you! Pray for them in their vocation!
- Watch: "Do we need priests?" on the *Paving the Way Home* YouTube Channel
- Check out *Vocations Ireland* website for information on priestly and religious vocations for men and women.



### HOW CAN WE OPEN THAT DOOR?

NOTICE JESUS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR, WHICH IS OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS. THE DOOR REPRESENTS OUR HEARTS. NOTICE THERE IS NO HANDLE ON THE OUTSIDE. HE KNOCKS BUT WE HAVE TO DECIDE TO LET CHRIST IN.



WILLIAM HUNT: "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"



Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan is Bishop of the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. Fr Billy Meehan & Fr Shane O'Neill are the Vocations Directors for the diocese.



DIOCESAN VOCATIONS

VIDEO



# Priestly Vocations

BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF A PRIEST'S VOCATION / ROLE?



WATCH THE DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE VOCATIONS VIDEO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

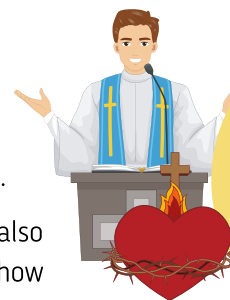
1

How does Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan define a vocation?

A vocation is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God to live a particular \_\_\_\_\_ in life.

2

Fr Shane O'Neill comments that as well as God giving us the vocation, he also gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ by which we discern what that \_\_\_\_\_ is and how we are to \_\_\_\_\_ it.



"THE PRIESTHOOD IS THE LOVE OF THE HEART OF GOD."  
ST JOHN VIANNEY

3

All Christians by virtue of baptism are called to the **"common priesthood"**: imitating Jesus as priest, prophet and king. Ordained priests who can administer the sacraments are known as the **"ministerial priesthood"**. How does Bishop Alphonsus explain how a priest lives out his ministerial priesthood?



4

What initially discouraged Fr Billy Meehan from considering priesthood?

What did he decide he wanted to be after his Leaving Cert? \_\_\_\_\_

"YOU WERE NOT MADE FOR COMFORT; YOU WERE MADE FOR GREATNESS!"  
BENEDICT XVI

5

Fr Shane describes the essence of the vocation to priesthood as "nothing less than a man laying down his life for Jesus Christ." He explains that a man who serves Jesus as a priest lays down all of his faculties, g\_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ and his entire \_\_\_\_\_ in service of Jesus and others.

6

What kind of gifts / talents / personality traits could a priest really use in the service of God and others today do you think?



ACTS 1:8  
"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES."

7

According to Fr Shane, where does a priest's power come from?

8

Although taking the first step to answering God's call to priesthood might be daunting, what encouragement do John (seminarian) and Fr Shane offer at the end?

9

After watching the video, what do you think is the most challenging part of being a priest today?

10

After watching the video, what do you think is the most fulfilling part of being a priest today?

"DO NOT BE AFRAID. OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST!"  
- ST JOHN PAUL II



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE

Lord Jesus, you have told us that "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Pray therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his fields." (Lk 10:2) We ask you, Lord, to send labourers into your fields, which are awaiting holy priests, heroic missionaries, dedicated brothers and sisters. We pray in particular for vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life in our Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. Enkindle in the hearts of our young people the grace and courage to hear and answer your call. May they respond with generosity, freedom and joy. May their lives serve as a witness to the fact that our deepest joy is to be found in you alone. Grant that Christian families may encourage and affirm such vocations, and that they may desire to give to your Church helpers in proclaiming the Good News to the world of tomorrow.



For more info on vocations in the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore, check out the website at [www.waterfordlismore.ie/priesthood/](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/priesthood/)