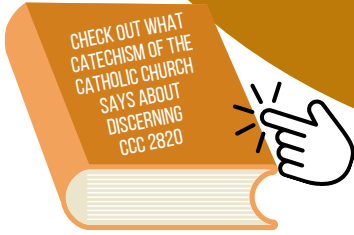




**God is real,
active and
present in our
world!**



Hear and Respond!

YOU ARE PETER, AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH. MT 16:18

WHOSE VOICE DO YOU LOVE TO HEAR THE SOUND OF? WHY IS THAT?

DO YOU FIND IT EASY TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MARK MARY CFR, "STRUGGLING TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



What does discerning mean?

What is the title of the book that Fr Mark Mary found really helpful?

What does Fr Mark Mary believe 100% that we can discern?

Fr Mark Mary believes we can hear and respond to God because God is so _____, so _____ and so _____ in our world.

What caused Fr Mark Mary so much worry initially in his Honduras mission?

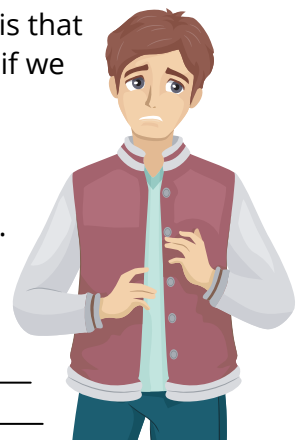


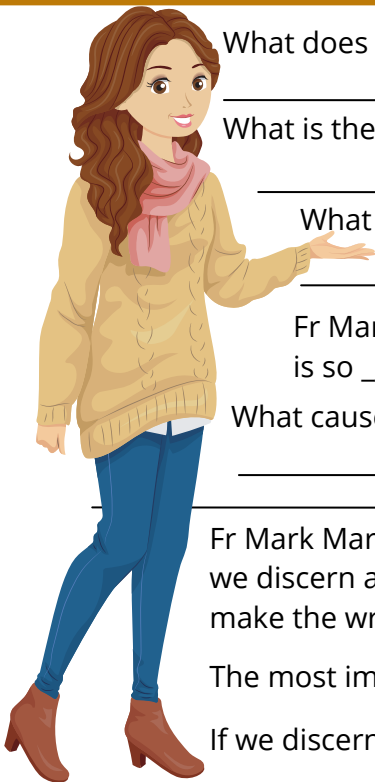
Fr Mark Mary suggests that one of the problems with how we discern is that we discern as if it is all up to us to make the _____ decision, and if we make the wrong decision, it's all our _____!

The most important thing in discernment is _____!

If we discern with God's help, it means we are just c_____.

Can you sum up Fr Mark Mary's prayer that he prayed to help him make decisions at this mission in your own words?



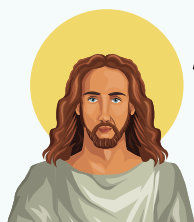


HEAR AND RESPOND

JOHN 10:1-10

Fr Mark found that the weight of his burden was gone because he was discerning in the truth of God's goodness, _____ and _____ in his life.

Does this discernment process come automatically? Explain.



Now Read John 10:1-10



In today's Gospel Jesus was drawing on a well-known image at the time of a shepherd calling his sheep. We might not have the same familiarity with what He means, but even today in Israel you will find different flocks pasturing together in a sheep fold or scattered throughout the hills, but when their own shepherd calls them they respond to him and follow. It's incredible to see!

How can they know his particular voice? They know their shepherd because they trust him; he provides for them, cares for them, keeps them safe from harm. In fact, he protects them with his own life if necessary, facing down threats like wolves and thieves for their sake.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. That makes baptised Christians, His sheep. He also calls himself the **Gate of the sheepfold**. The shepherd would lay down at the entrance to the sheepfold to put himself between his sheep and any threat. Jesus showed us he was willing to lay down his life for us on Calvary. But a really important question for us to ask is not just "do we listen to His voice?" but rather, since we have free will, "do we **want** to listen to His voice?" Do we believe that Jesus knows what is best for us? Do we trust that He will always provide? Do we turn to Him for help and advice? Are we drowning out His voice with other noise or voice?



MISSION!

THIS WEEK'S VIDEO FROM FR MARK MARY HELPS US TO KNOW HOW TO LISTEN AND TO KNOW WHAT GOD IS ASKING US TO DO. WE CALL THAT DISCERNMENT. WE CAN DISCERN THE LITTLE THINGS AS WELL AS THE BIG. TRY TO PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE, STARTING THIS WEEK! TRY USING THE PRAYER BELOW WHEN FACED WITH A DIFFICULT OR CONFUSING DECISION AND TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU.



PRAYER TIME!

PRAYER WHEN DISCERNING:

Here I am Lord, You know me; I want to make the best decision. I want to do what you want me to do Lord. Whichever decision I make, well-intentioned, I need You to bless it. I trust that You'll be there with me Lord. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON HEARING GOD'S VOICE

- Amanda Lindsey Cook: Still
- Keith & Kristyn Getty: Every Promise of Your Word
- Dante Bowe: Voice of God
- Casting Crowns: Voice of Truth
- Kari Jobe: Speak to me
- Chris McClarney: I'm Listening
- Hillsong: Never Walk Alone
- Brian Doersken: Today



Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



6:30 MINS



Four Helpful Rules for Discernment (Fr Mike Schmitz)



What Should I Do? Ascend YM Resource Pack



What is a Vocation?



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"





DIOCESAN VOCATIONS
VIDEO



Fishers of Men

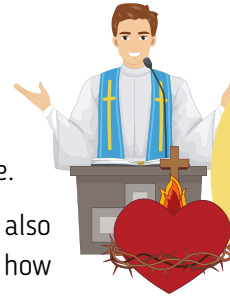
BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF A PRIEST'S VOCATION / ROLE?



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.

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



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

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?

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

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?



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.

Fr John McEneaney was ordained for the
Diocese of Waterford & Lismore on 24th
October 2021. Watch a short video clip on
the Diocesan YouTube Channel [here](#).

For more on vocations check
<https://vocationsireland.com/>

