

Where Do Diocesan Clergy Fit In?

God calls all believing, baptised members of the church to share in its ministry and mission.

"You are a chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvellous light."

(1 Peter 2:9)

Each of us is a minister of the church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, often exercising our ministries in spontaneous and informal ways.

There are also many kinds of organised, formal ministries:

- ✦ **Commissioned Ministers** are elected or appointed by the parish, congregation or church organisation.
- ✦ **Licensed Lay Ministers** are chosen by the rector and parish council, receive training from the parish and diocese, and are licensed by the bishop.

- ✦ **Deacons** are ordained ministers of the church, who lead in worship and the church's ministries of compassion.

Diocesan Deacons are usually preparing to be ordained as Church Supported Priests

- ✦ **Priests** are ordained ministers of the church who take a lead in the pastoral, sacramental, teaching and preaching ministries. They can serve the church in many different capacities.

Diocesan Deacons and Priests are set apart to exercise important leadership roles in the diocese. They usually receive

a stipend and serve the church in a "full time" capacity. Most Diocesan Clergy are rectors or in training to become rectors.

The bishop, priests and deacons together make up the **clergy** of the diocese.

How Do I Become Diocesan Deacon or Priest?

The **process** of becoming a Diocesan Deacon or Priest is a **partnership** between you, your parish leadership and the diocese – all acting in submission and obedience to God.

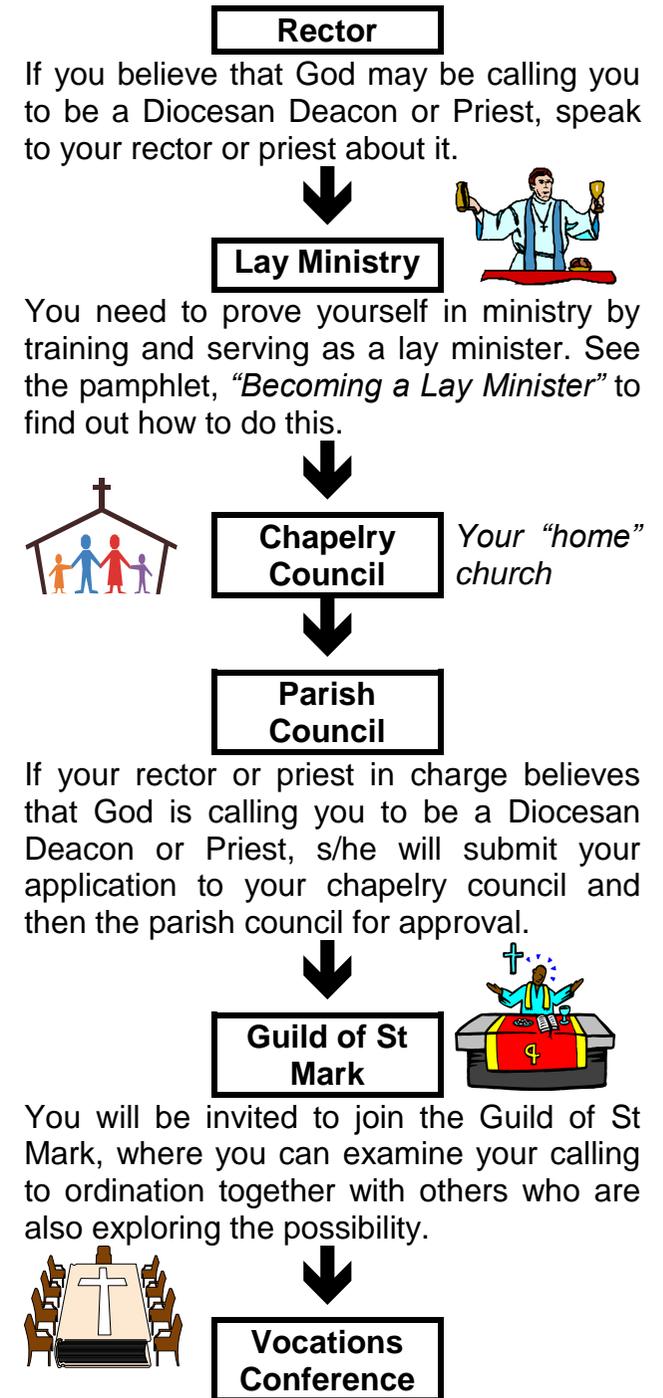
The final decision about your ordination is up to the bishop, who is advised by leaders of the church in the diocese.

Here are the steps along the way:

First, **make sure that you are a member "in good standing"** of your congregation and parish. The Anglican Prayer Book 1989 p 434 no. 82 gives a good idea of what this means. Among other things, we will expect you to:

- ✦ Have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.
- ✦ Be regular and frequent in worship, and active in the life of the church.
- ✦ Be setting an example in regular, sacrificial giving to the church in proportion to your income (tithing).
- ✦ Live an exemplary lifestyle in the community, which bears witness to the truth of the gospel of Christ.

This "flow chart" explains the steps along the way



The Diocese will invite you to attend a Vocations Conference, which seeks to discern how God is calling you into ministry – as indicated in the three blocks below:



(See pamphlet)

(See pamphlet)

If you are selected to train as a Diocesan Deacon or Priest (you become an “ordinand”), the Vocations Conference will advise the bishop and department of training for ministries about the training you still need.

✦ **Diocesan Clergy** are usually required to complete a recognised Diploma or degree in theology before ordination. This will probably include some time at a theological college or university.

There is no guarantee that you will be ordained.



Ordination
Training

Your training will be both theological and practical, and cover the **knowledge, skills** and **attitudes** (lifestyle) you need for your ministry as a Community Priest or Deacon. It will be a partnership between you, your theology teachers and the diocese.



Decision on
Ordination
and
Licensing
as a
Deacon

The bishop will make this decision after receiving reports from those involved your training.

Ordination
as a
Deacon



Further
Training

If you have been at a theological college or university, you will be placed in a “training parish” to grow in experience of ministry.



Decision on
Ordination
and
Licensing
as a Priest

Ordination
as a Priest

After your ordination as a priest, you will continue to receive training to prepare you for a leadership role (probably as a rector) in the diocese.

Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

To see vibrant, self-sufficient Congregations established and linked to each other for the purpose of sharing in:

- ✦ Resources
- ✦ Ministry and service
- ✦ Outreach and evangelism.



Becoming a Diocesan Deacon or Priest