

Calling People to Ministry Leadership



Calling People to be Members of the Team

Once the team structure and role descriptions have been completed, the journey of calling people to ministry leadership begins.

The roles of leadership can be undertaken by a person either lay or ordained. Every member of the Team should have a specific area of ministry in which they exercise leadership. Some members of the Team will need to complete both general and specific training before they are in a position to be fully released for work in the area to which they are called.

As we discern people to exercise ministry leadership in the team, the people of God in the parish identify men and women who demonstrate by their character and participation in the congregation that they are disciples of Jesus Christ and are committed to Christian ministry and service. They are living reminders of church's vocation and we see in them a call to ordained ministry.

- We may see in them the characteristics of a priest or a deacon.
- They may gather people and help them grow in the life of faith.
- They may serve the needy and encourage others to do the same.

The Deacon in local ministry will be a bridge between the local community and the gather congregation. We will see local deacons connecting with disadvantaged people and those on the margins as well as responding to the sick and needy of the church family. Through Deacons in local ministry we will see a recovery of this distinct ordained vocation in the Church. Deacons in local ministry will be at the forefront of fresh expressions enabling the church to respond to human need with loving service through which nurture and discipleship education may lead people to want to express their response to God through corporate worship.

The Priest in local ministry enables corporate worship exercising leadership in the ministries of word and sacrament. The way this ministry will be exercised alongside the Parish Priest will vary. They may focus on a specific congregation or centre in the parish, including gatherings in nursing homes. In some parishes, the presence of priests in local ministry has allowed the community of faith to expand ministries which were previously constrained by priestly availability. In some communities, priests in local ministry will enable communities to celebrate the eucharist on a weekly or more frequently.

The Team Structure should not rely on people being called to the ordained ministry for that ministry to be completed. However, experience has already shown that many men and women have been wrestling with God's call for years. MCiM enables them to take their place in the household of deacons or the college of priests expressing their vocation within and beyond the Church.