FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

FORMATION IN LITURGY

"Go and prepare the Passover for us."
(Luke 22:8)

- **Are you looking to serve your parish at Mass from beyond the pew?**
- **Have you ever wondered if you have what it takes to be a Reader, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, Welcomer, Children's Liturgist etc.?**
- **Did you know that the diocese offers training in the above ministries and more?**

Formation & Mission

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

FORMATION IN LITURGY

Here you will find an overview of the courses and resources which are offered for the discernment and training of lay people who help and serve in the celebration of the Liturgy. Further information can be found on the diocesan website: https://bit.ly/FormationInLiturgyMinistry.

If you are interested in any of these ministries, talk with your parish priest as it is often a requirement that they endorse your attendance at a training course.

For some ministries you may also be required go through the Disclosure and Barring procedures for Diocesan Safeguarding requirements.

Sacristans

When Jesus was about to celebrate the Last Supper He sent his disciples Peter and John ahead telling them to prepare the place. This special duty is carried out by Jesus' disciples in our time. Sacristans are especially called to fulfil this ministry.

Taking care of the sacred vessels and cloths, setting up for Mass and the Sacraments, and ensuring that the liturgical books are properly marked, all form part of the ministry of the Sacristan.

"Make preparations for us there."
(Luke 22:12)

We offer training programmes that look at the daily duties of a Sacristan and provide particular guidance in preparing for the great seasons of the Church's Year and special events. There is an initial training day and other opportunities to look at certain times of the year in more detail are provided.

Readers

Every time the word of God is read aloud in Church is a moment when Jesus Christ speaks to his people.

The ministry of proclaiming God's word is shared by ordained ministers who read the Gospels and by lay people who read from the Old Testament and the New Testament letters, Acts and Revelation. It is vital that Readers understand what they are reading and accept its message themselves. They are to be faithful in handing on the word of God so that it may grow in the hearts of his people.

"The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12)

An initial training programme is offered lasting an evening and a day to help Readers start in this ministry. They are encouraged to deepen their love and understanding of the Scriptures and to develop their skills.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The most precious gift on earth that Jesus has given us is himself in Holy Communion. We honour the Blessed Sacrament as the sign of his love and abiding presence among us.

By special provision of the Church we are allowed to train and commission lay people to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. They cannot replace the Priest or Deacon, but they can assist in distribution, making it possible for parishioners to receive Our Lord more easily. Participation in this ministry is at the invitation of your Parish Priest.

A renewal of Commitment takes place during each year of service.

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."
(Mark 10:45)

Initial training and formation consists of two evenings and a day to help new Extraordinary Ministers to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Eucharist and their role in the life of their parish. They are encouraged to grow in love of the Blessed Sacrament and to be humble in service. Continued development takes place at Days of Reflection and Renewal either locally or at opportunities provided by the Diocese.

Those who will visit the sick and housebound must go through the Disclosure and Barring procedures.

Children's Liturgy

How do we help children feel welcome at Mass and able to take part? The Church looks at this question seriously. To help us in this work 'The Directory on Children's Masses' was published after the Second Vatican Council.

In Masses where there are a number of children present, the Directory suggests a special Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) in a separate place near to the main church.

Not a creche and not a Sunday School, it is aimed at proclaiming the Scriptures to young people in a way suited to their age and ability. It is a way to help them understand by using language and symbols relating to their childhood experience.
Leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word have a great privilege and responsibility. They help break open the words of the Gospel for the children, enabling them to hear God's Word.

"Whoever welcomes a child in my name, welcomes me."
(Matthew 18:5)

Workshops, for training new leaders to the Ministry and as a refresher for those already leading CLOW, are offered at a local level in a parish or Partnership when requested. If you would like to take advantage of a workshop please contact adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

A Diocesan Study Day often takes place to allow Children's Liturgy Leaders to learn more and to spend time in prayer and reflection on their ministry. Guidelines on how to lead CLOW and suggested resources are available on the diocesan website.

Welcomers

Jesus welcomed all who came looking for help and mercy. As disciples we are invited to copy his example; to welcome others and so welcome him and his Father.

In this great work we are all called to work together so that this welcome is found in every parish. From those who greet us at the door as we enter, for Mass or a Service, to those who prepare with others to receive the Sacraments, the idea of welcome is a priority.

We provide opportunities through training and reflection to develop a Ministry of Welcome in every parish community.

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Matthew 10:40)

Training programmes consist of a day and a follow-up evening or three evenings altogether. Time is given to reflect on how the Ministry of Welcome touches every aspect of parish life.

"Speak to one another with the words of psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts." (Ephesians 5:19)

DCMA
Diocesan Church Music Association
Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA) is a body of volunteer musicians who are here to encourage and promote best practice and develop musical skills and repertoire across the Diocese. The DCMA aims to offer practical help and guidance to parish musicians, considering that each parish will have its own musical 'house-style'. This may be a traditional choir-and-organ setup, an instrumental group, a praise & worship band, or perhaps unaccompanied singing. Whatever the genre of music, it still fulfils the same important function in the Mass!

For more information about the DCMA and how it assists Church music across the Diocese please visit: https://bit.ly/DHNLiturgyDCMA

Lay Leaders of Services in the Absence of a Priest

We depend upon those who are ordained, our Bishops, Priests and Deacons, to help us be authentically the Church of Jesus Christ. Sadly, at times we find ourselves without priests or deacons to lead us in worship. It is important that the worship of God by his people continues day by day.

No lay person can preside at Mass of course, but with the parish priest's permission, on those weekdays when no Mass is celebrated, there can be a Celebration of the Word, or a Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion led by a specially commissioned lay person.

"God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24)

A course to become a Liturgical Leader of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion consists of seven sessions (six evenings and a day). During this time particular attention is given to the practicalities of organising things, of helping others listen to God's Word and of ensuring a reverent distribution of Holy Communion.

DAYS OF REFLECTION FOR THE LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Whilst the initial training is important as you begin in one (or more) of the different liturgical ministries, training and formation in the ministries is a life-long task. The diocese offers Days of Reflection for all the ministries to bring people together to refresh their commitment and to reflect on their ministry.

Details for upcoming Days of Reflection can be found on the diocesan website:

https://bit.ly/DHNFormationInLiturgy

Reflections on the Scripture for Weekend Liturgy and Key Seasons of the Year

We are blessed in our diocese to have a team of volunteer writers who prayerfully produce written reflections on the readings for each Sunday, and also daily reflections on the readings during the season of Advent and Lent.

Reading these can be helpful in your ongoing formation and understanding of the scriptures. They often offer insight into the context of readings and explore differing approaches to the central themes of the readings.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Liturgy Courses and Days of Reflection Dates & Information

The Liturgical Formation Team tend to run Liturgy Courses and Days of Reflection during term time. All details for upcoming courses and DOR's are posted on the diocesan website (please check on a regular basis for updates) and sent to parishes.

https://bit.ly/DHNFormationInLiturgy

If you are interested in a particular course which isn't listed to run at your time of looking, do get in touch with adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk who can register your interest.

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

FORMATION IN LITURGY

SO, YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Here at the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle, our friendly Formation & Mission team would be delighted to help you explore formation opportunities in Liturgy.

We'd love to chat with you, so please call us:

0191 243 3316
0737 593 4713

Our office hours are
8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri

Drop us an email:
adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Amy Cameron: Director of Formation & Mission
Mark Hindmarsh: Formation & Mission Team Leader
Emma Wynne: Formation & Mission Development Officer
Amy McDonagh: Formation & Mission Administrator

For further areas of Formation & Mission
in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle please scan the QR code or visit:
https://bit.ly/DHNFormation_Mission_Leaflets