

A Call to the Permanent Diaconate

The Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Reverend John Wilson, has a vision to have a Permanent Deacon in every parish within the Archdiocese. To make this noble vision a reality he has tasked a group of Permanent Deacons with the responsibility to promote, identify and support men across the parishes who have a calling to the ministry, and help them discern and say 'Yes' to God's call to the Diaconal Order to serve God and His Church.

The name deacon comes from the Greek word 'diakonia', which means 'service'. This means the deacon is called to serve, like Christ, who came to serve, and not to be served. Therefore the Diaconal Ministry is a ministry of service with three main functions: 1) The ministry of the Word - proclaiming the Gospel. 2) The ministry of the Altar - distinct service at Mass, and 3) The ministry of Charity - espouse charitable works.

So what is a Permanent Deacon? The Permanent Deacon is an ordained man, married or single, called to be open to God's love, promises and guidance in the service of the Church, assisting the Bishop and Priest locally and the wider church as the case may be.

The Deacon has his roots in scripture and St Paul outlines the qualifications of the Deacon in his first letter to Timothy (*1 Timothy 3:8-12*)

- A deacon is self-controlled in his actions, speech and interactions must have respect for others and be respected.
- A deacon is sound in faith
- A deacon has been tested
- A deacon is faithful to his wife if married
- A deacon manages his children and household well

If selected, Diaconal candidates undergo a programme of formation; human, spiritual, theological and pastoral.

Are you a man between 21 years to 58 years, prayerful, with the desire to love God and God's people within the Archdiocese as well as the wider church community? Are you involved in services within your parish and/or community?

Do you feel called to be a Permanent Deacon?

Do you have the gift to help members of the Church to discover and put into action their gifts and talents and the ministry of Christ?

Have you tried many things and still feel drawn to a closer relationship with Christ and His Church?

If you have answered 'yes' to one or more of the questions above, and require further information about the Permanent Diaconate, then speak to your Parish Priest, the Parish Deacon (if there is one), or contact the Diocanate Formation Director (details below).

Come and see what the Lord has instore for you!

Archdiocese of Southwark Diaconate Formation

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