



THE PARISH OF SAINT COLMCILLE BELFAST

15th March 2023

Dear Father,

I trust that you are well.

On the Feast of the Good Shepherd, 29th April, the Irish Bishops are launching a Year for Vocation for Diocesan Priesthood with the theme: *“Take the Risk for Christ”*. The year will allow us to focus our energies and renew our prayer for Diocesan Vocations. The National Vocations Office will distribute resources in the coming weeks.

This year, the Drumalis Vocations Retreat will be co-hosted by the Northern Dioceses. By coming together, it is hoped that we can share resources and create a supportive atmosphere to the men discerning priesthood. Fr Stephen Langridge (former National Vocations Director for England and Wales) has kindly agreed to direct the retreat. Could I ask that you share notice of the retreat in your bulletin and perhaps announce it at Masses. Attached to this email is a poster that can be shared on social media and parish websites, along with the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/northern-dioceses-vocations-directors-61425428073>

Lastly, please feel free to share my contact details with anyone who you know is considering a priestly vocation. Since November, on the last Saturday of the month, men discerning have been invited to a dinner and a short input from a guest priest on some aspect of Diocesan life. Those who have attended have found the evenings very helpful in their discernment. Others will be very welcome to attend.

Many thanks for your continued support and prayer for vocations,

Rev Conor McGrath PP
Director of Vocations