

messenger of hope

Jesus Christ has had an incredible impact on the world. His teachings have shaped many values held by our society, and his love has transformed countless lives. A critical part of a priest's mission is to tell Christ's story of hope. That story brings comfort to those who are weak and without a voice, and encourages and activates those who have the power to make the world a better place. Jesus' message of hope is not always popular; people have suffered for preaching the Gospel, but it is a powerful message that must be told.

community leader

One of the most satisfying things about being a priest is being part of a faith community and being a pastoral leader. This occurs on a number of levels, including presiding over communal worship of a faith community and joining with families at big moments like weddings and baptisms. Priests are often called upon to enter the lives of people when life is darkened with sadness and difficulty. Even in these difficult moments, a priest can experience a profound satisfaction that he has been an instrument of God.

spiritual guide

The priest of the future will need to continue to assist people in developing their spirituality. Nourishing the Catholic community with the Body and Blood of Christ is a vital role for a priest. He also needs to explore ways of helping people make spiritual sense of their lives in a dynamic and changing world. Before offering guidance to other people, priests need to be students of prayer themselves. A priest develops his personal relationship with God, to learn the ways of God and to lead others on those paths.



vocation



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



Visit the vocation website for articles and information on catholic priesthood, answers to frequently asked questions and more...

www.catholicpriesthood.com

To talk to someone about your vocation call Mark Lysaght at the Vocations Centre

vocation centre GPO Box 282 Brisbane Queensland 4001 Australia. Telephone **1300 133 544**. Email vocation@bne.catholic.net.au

PRIESTHOOD > men with a mission

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vocation

the call to priesthood

"While the priesthood of tomorrow will be the same priesthood as Christ has always willed for the Church, it will change in some ways to meet the challenges of its own time...

Priests of the future will need to be missionaries as much as they are pastors of the Church, because the Church in Australia is now very much a missionary Church. They will need to engage with all their energy in a new evangelisation to bring the gospel, the vision of Christ, to every corner of Australian society."



(excerpt from *Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of Queensland on Vocations to the Priesthood*)

God calls every person to follow Him. Within the spectrum of different vocations, the call to Priesthood is a particular call. Our world and our Church today need Priests who are forthright messengers of hope, strong community leaders, and spiritual guides for the lost and the faithful. Have you considered this call? Maybe you are experiencing a range of emotions, such as anxiety, hope, doubt, fear, excitement and faith – that's okay, these are quite normal emotions to feel! The journey to priesthood involves joy, challenge, adventure and sacrifice. Ultimately, it leads to personal fulfilment for those who are called.

Continue to seek to discover God's will in all areas of your life. Some ways that can help you hear what God might be saying are: maintaining a regular prayer time where you can talk to God about His call in your life, reading the Bible each day, striving to live your life according to His word, serving Him through your parish or faith community, and discussing your thoughts with your parish priest or another wise person. God's call can be a difficult thing for us to discern on our own. Read on to explore further about the role of the priest today, and contact the Director of Vocations to talk more about how God might be calling you.



WHERE ARE
YOU
GOING?

Ever asked "Where am I going?" Every Catholic male should ask "Am I called to the priesthood?" In baptism we become part of the whole church, we are a priestly people, but there is a difference. Some are called to be priests conferred with a sacred power; their mission is to serve the people of God as Jesus Christ did. Are you called to this mission?



⤴ **Fr Tim Harris**
Fisherman and Parish Priest,
Corinda /Graceville

Priesthood means to be at the service of The People of God. Centred around the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. He is a leader amongst leaders, and on behalf of the Church empowers others to share in the task of Kingdom Building. He is after all a priest for the people. This is how I have lived my Priesthood for the past 14 years and have been given countless graces and blessings along the way.



⤴ **Archbishop John Bathersby**
Mountain climber and
Archbishop of Brisbane

To be a Priest is to be a man of God. It is to lead people in the **vision** of transforming the world according to the mind of Jesus Christ. There is no more challenging or satisfying leadership role in the world today than Priesthood. After forty years of Priesthood I would be prepared to do it all again, each and every moment of it.



⤴ **Fr Paul Chandler**
Pianist and Priest,
Southport

To be the person I believe God wants me to be, I could not be other than be a priest. It is deeply fulfilling and life-giving to minister God's word and sacraments and to bring peoples' lives to intersect with God's life. It is a wonderful and unique thing to be a priest. It might be what God dreams of for you!



⤴ **Fr Morgan Batt**
Mountaineer and
Australian Army Chaplain

Priesthood for me is not so much about what I am called to but who I am called to be. Priests are called to be a holy, authentic, indefectible witness to Christ's presence in the world and God's loving action. The reality of priesthood is that it is more a verb than a noun. It is a life of action (mission) with the people of God in the gospel challenge.

I wanted a life that was full with a sense of purpose and direction. As a priest my life is just that. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ I have found my way in life and I want to share that with others. Encountering people in the midst of their experiences from the cradle to the grave, I often find the very face of Christ staring back at me.



⤴ **Fr Tony Girvan**
Artist and Parish Priest,
Beenleigh

"We have left everything and followed you" (Lk 18:28). Called to consecrate themselves with an undivided heart to Jesus Christ each individual gives themselves entirely to God and to God's people.

celibacy

Celibacy is counter cultural and radical discipleship! To many it is a 'lifestyle choice' that makes no sense to our post modern culture. But for men who choose to follow Jesus on the path toward priesthood it is much more than a lifestyle choice, it is tied up in the mystery of God's call and they find a grace and reason within themselves to live celibately. A priest must accept and embrace celibacy wholeheartedly "The Church sees a sign of the priest's special consecration to Jesus Christ as one who has left everything to follow him." Celibate priests affirm what Peter spoke to Jesus "We have left everything and followed you" (Lk 18:28). Called to consecrate themselves with an undivided heart to Jesus Christ each individual gives themselves entirely to God and to God's people.

test your call: canali house



Feel like you are being called by God to something more? Then why not 'Test Your Call'. In 2003, the Archdiocese of Brisbane opened Canali House, a residential house of discernment for young men considering the call to Priesthood. Between 2003-2007, ten men have taken the step to test their call in this way. Canali House offers a unique opportunity to take a step along the discernment journey by living with other young men on a similar journey while remaining in their current situations of study or employment. In the seminary individuals will learn and take on elements of

human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation. Young men in Canali House can 'try out' some of these elements of seminary life such as daily Prayer of the Church, regular celebration of Eucharist, charitable works, shared meals and other elements of household living. The period of time that one stays in Canali House is worked out in consultation with the Director of Vocations, and can be anywhere from a couple of months to a full year. There is regular access to the Director of Vocations and to a priestly mentor to help in discernment. It is an ideal step towards entering the seminary.