

Introduction, welcome & prayer for the Celebration of Lay Ministries

Suggested introduction and welcome

Through baptism, God welcomes us into the fellowship of the universal Church. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and according to their gifts, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship and governance of the Church.

We gather to celebrate the women and men nominated in this *parish/benefice* in recognition for their faithful witness and ministry within their local faith community and their encouragement of the ministries of God's people, as the Spirit distributes gifts among us all.

Prayer for the Celebration of Lay Ministries

Everlasting Father,
Your Son came to earth to do your will
And in baptism you call us to love and serve you:
Help us to discern what you now ask of us
And give us grace to respond In joyful obedience
In union with your beloved Son;
Who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
One God, now and forever.
Amen

As a Diocese, we celebrate all that lay people give to the life of the church and to their community. We give thanks to God for the children, women and men who respond to God's call and generously offer their skills, gifts and ministries, acknowledging their immense contributions to the building up of God's Kingdom and their faithful witness and work among us.

We praise you for the gifts your Spirit has inspired in these, your servants, that they may, in turn, place them at the service of the Church. Bless them and the ministry they undertake to spread the Gospel of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to all who long to experience your love in their lives.

Amen