

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”

EPHESIANS 4 V 11-12



An opportunity to explore your vocation

Speak to your Rector now

vocation ⁺
Retreat

Contact

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it's your call ⁺
Church of Ireland Vocations

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Manresa
Retreat Centre

21 - 23 Feb 2025



vocation ⁺
Retreat

vocations.ireland.anglican.org



God calls each one of us to serve him and to serve others



Guest Speaker

Bishop Andrew Watson

The word “vocation” means calling. It is a dialogue in which God calls and we listen. Each of us is unique and God calls each one of us in a unique way. In the Church of Ireland ordained ministry is a particular calling to ministry, one which as a church we value highly.

For some the calling to ordination is a moment of decision, for others it is a lengthy process, extending over months and years. We may hear a gentle voice inside us asking questions or we may be prompted by others asking questions of us. What is important is that we take time to listen to God’s voice. One way in which we may allow God to speak to us about vocation is to attend a retreat where we can meet with others who have heard and responded to that call or to meet with those who are questioning their own sense of vocation.

As part of its commitment to develop ministry, and endorsed by the House of Bishops, the Commission on Ministry is organizing a series of events to encourage vocations to the ordained ministry within the Church of Ireland.

This retreat is for those who may just be beginning to ask whether God is calling them to the ordained ministry. It is also for those who may be further along the road. Wherever you are on the journey, coming to a retreat to hear others talk about their experiences, learning what that might mean for you personally and practically and, above all, allowing God to speak to you, may just clarify that decision for you. The retreat will be a mixture of informal talks, practical guidance, discussion and times of quiet, all held in the beautiful Manresa Retreat Centre in Clontarf, Dublin 3.

The Guest Speaker this year is Bishop Andrew Watson.



Throughout the retreat there will be times of worship and times for silence and personal reflection. There will also be opportunity for informal chats with members of the clergy and members of the Commission on Ministry.

Cost

Participants are asked for a contribution towards costs of €75/£65. The retreat is financed through the Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry.

Dates

The retreat will be held from 21st to 23rd February 2025.

Getting there

Manresa is situated in Clontarf, Dublin 3 and www.manresa.ie contains information on how to get there using public transport.

More info

If you are interested in attending and would like to know more please contact: Judy Peters via the Synod Office at synod@rcbcoi.org

Andrew Watson was the grandson of medical missionaries in China, and the son of a professional musician: and both music and faith played an important role in his early years. Following a law degree at Cambridge, Andrew spent two years as a youth worker and caretaker in London before returning to Cambridge to study Theology. It was there that he first met Beverly, his wife, during a lecture given by the then Dean of Clare College, Revd. Dr Rowan Williams. Beverly herself is from Irish and Cornish stock, and her mother was born and raised on the Howth Peninsula. Andrew and Beverly married in 1986, and Andrew was ordained a year later, serving his curacy on a council estate in Redditch. They moved to Notting Hill in 1990, then to Twickenham in 1996, where he was incumbent at St. Stephen’s Church for twelve years. During that time the Church built a new hall and sent out teams to plant three new churches. Andrew and Beverly have four adult children – two girls (a professional pianist and an ordinand) and two boys (both post-doctoral biologists) - along with three grandchildren. Beverly was ordained in the same year that Andrew became a Bishop – 2008 – and is vicar of All Saints, Onslow Village, on the outskirts of Guildford. Andrew was Bishop of Aston in Birmingham Diocese from 2008-14, before moving to Guildford in January 2015. He is the author of three books, ‘The Fourfold Leadership of Jesus’, ‘Confidence in the Living God’ and ‘The Way of the Desert’, all published by the Bible Reading Fellowship. Along with his work in the diocese he has variously chaired the Panel of World Mission and the Anglican Communion and the Church of England Governance Project. He also chaired the Ordained Vocations Working Group from 2015-2020, which saw a 43% rise in the number of ordinands in the Church of England. Andrew joined the House of Lords in February 2022, where he is especially focussed on issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Booking

Please fill out the attached booking form (in Microsoft Word format) and email to janet.maxwell@rcbcoi.org

Payment can be made electronically through the Representative Church Body. Banking details will be made available on receipt of booking form