



## How do I find out more?

If you think you are being called to this service in the church the first step would be to speak to your Parish Priest. A vocation to the diaconate comes from within a specific community and the Priest as the leader of that community would be helpful in pointing you in the right direction.

It will be necessary to speak with the Archdiocesan Director for the Diaconate, Fr. Paul Kelly. He will meet with you and discuss the possibilities. The following stages would be explained at that meeting but you can also find out more about the stages of acceptance to the Diaconate on our website.

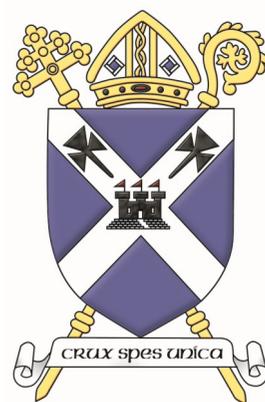
Applications should be made before Lent as the year of discernment begins after Easter.

### Further Reading:

Permanent Diaconate—Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons & Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons, Catholic Truth Society.

This is on the Vocations page of our Website:

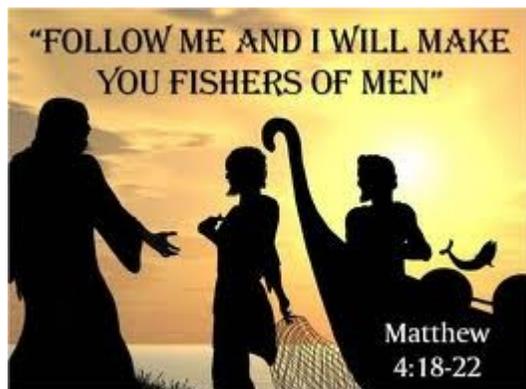
[www.archdiocese-edinburgh.com](http://www.archdiocese-edinburgh.com)



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## ▶ Permanent Deacons



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# The Permanent Diaconate



## What is the Permanent Diaconate?

The Permanent Diaconate is an ordained role in the Catholic Church.

The permanent deacon, who may be single or married, dedicates his life to serving others. His ministry of service focuses on three areas: assisting at the altar in the celebration of the sacraments; preaching the Word of God and leading people in prayer; and reaching out in loving service to the practical and spiritual needs of others, especially of the poor and those outside the normal confines of the church.



## What do Permanent Deacons do?

The first responsibility of the deacon is to be an effective visible sign of Christ who came to serve rather than to be served. He receives his mission from his Bishop, and will be assigned to work as a member of a team, normally under the leadership of a parish priest. The areas of ministry entrusted to deacons fall under three general headings; Altar, Word and Charity. (More information on these can be found on the Vocations page at our website)

## Who is eligible to become a Deacon?

Any decision to call a man to the order of deacon must follow from a mature discernment. It is a decision rooted in faith. The bishop needs to satisfy himself that a man, who has already been called by God in the Sacrament of Baptism, is now called by God to ordained ministry.



Candidates may be married or single.

There are no specific academic qualifications required but you would be expected to have some academic or intellectual interest, es-

pecially a willingness and ability to undertake further training.

Spirituality should be an important factor in your life and we would expect you to have a disciplined prayer life and an interest in things of the Spirit. You will be actively involved with your parish and have an on-going relationship with your own or another priest who is giving you support. You would also be expected to evidence your involvement with the Sacramental life of the Church.

It can take up to a year from the time the Director for the Permanent Diaconate is given a name to the point when that person is presented to the diocesan interview board.

If he is perceived as having a possible vocation and accepted for the Diaconate Formation Programme, it will normally take another four years before he is ordained as a deacon.

More details can be found on our website

### Director for the Permanent Diaconate

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