



# PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

The Ministry of Catechist in the Diocese of Elphin



For more information and application form  
email [mgduignan@gmail.com](mailto:mgduignan@gmail.com) or phone 087 6894467  
Closing date for applications 16th September 2016

[www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie)

## **W**ho would be interested in becoming a diocesan catechist?

Anyone who wishes to grow in their understanding of Christian faith and who has a desire to share this faith and knowledge with others.

## **I**s this a vocation?

Yes! In a very real sense it is a call to take part in a very ancient ministry in the faith community (Acts 18:23-28) – that of educating members in matters of faith and Christian living. As such, the formation programme for diocesan catechists is a journey of discerning whether or not this is something God asks of you.

## **W**hat does a diocesan catechist do?

As part of a dynamic and creative team, in union with priests, deacons, parish pastoral councils and others, a diocesan catechist would assist with the delivery of various faith development programmes and opportunities at both parish level and beyond.

## **D**o catechists have an official role?

Yes! On the successful completion of the formation programme, catechists will be formally entrusted with their mission by the Bishop.

## **I**s a diocesan catechist paid?

Some catechists may be employed by a parish or a group of parishes, but normally the role is a voluntary one where the person commits initially for five years to giving two hours of their time per week to organising and delivering various programmes. Catechists will be paid for expenses incurred in the course of their ministry.

## **H**ow long does the training take?

The part-time formation course is spread over four years – this is to allow time and space to engage with the programme. The first year is a preliminary year where interested people can come and enjoy a series of weekends and see if this is for them. The next three years will include the nourishing of one's spiritual life, various personal development opportunities, the completion of an accredited Diploma in Lifelong Religious Education (NQF Level 8) and the opportunity to partake in various relevant placements.

## **W**hat time commitment will the training involve?

This first year will consist of 6 weekend sessions (Friday evening to Saturday evening) along with a three day retreat. The second, third and fourth years will each have 12 weekend sessions (Friday evening to Saturday evening) along with two summer schools and retreats. The course will also include site visits and ministry placements.

## **W**ill I have help?

All participants will be accompanied by a Spiritual Director who will support them on their own journey of faith and an academic tutor who will assist them with the academic component of the programme.

## **W**here will the formation take place?

The formation will take place in Sligo with outreach sessions throughout the diocese. The frequency of these outreach sessions will depend on where the participants come from. Every effort will be made to make participation as easy as possible.

## **H**ow much will it cost?

For successful applicants, all the costs of the formation will be borne by the Diocese of Elphin. For further information and application form see [www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie)