

PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

DIOCESE OF ELPHIN



Youth & Young Adult MINISTRY



“Let us encourage the generosity which is typical of the young and help them to work actively in building a better world. Young people are a powerful engine for the Church and for society”
- Pope Francis



What's A Parish Youth Minister?

The Diocese of Elphin, through its diocesan office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, is offering an opportunity for Parishes to have trained volunteers who will support their priest in building a vibrant and engaging youth and young adult ministry programme. While there are many faith based initiatives, programmes and events available for young people, very often it is difficult to get young people to engage unless they are personally invited by someone whom they know and trust at local level. Youth and Young Adult Ministry is all about building positive, supportive, balanced and healthy relationships with young people while encouraging them to continue to explore and develop their faith. To achieve this the Diocese needs people of faith who have a heart for young people, are willing to work as part of a dynamic and creative team, in union with priests, deacons, catechists, parish pastoral councils and others, and are willing to undertake some training in order to be in a position to offer local support, encouragement, guidance and leadership to young people who are interested in engaging with their faith.

What Qualification Is Being Offered?

Those who complete the course will be awarded a NQF Level 7 Certificate in Leadership and Management in Faith Contexts with particular focus on Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Who Will Deliver The Course?

The course is approved by NUI Galway and will be delivered by lecturers approved by St. Angela's College, Sligo.

Where Will The Course Take Place?

The course will take place in a central location in the Diocese. The venue will be decided once registration is complete and the geographical location of participants is clear.

How Long Will The Course Take To Complete?

The part-time course is spread over two years approximately – this is to allow space and time to engage with the programme, develop friendships and support among participants and their participating parishes.

The first part will consist of introductory content which will take place over five or six evenings during the months of May and June 2019.

The second part will consist of the academic and spiritual programme which will begin in September 2019 and run for 3 semesters finishing in December 2020 as follows:

- 1st Semester will run September – December 2019.
- 2nd Semester will run January – May 2020.
- 3rd Semester will run September – December 2020.

The course will take place on Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 10pm. Typically 3 Wednesday evenings per month during each semester period. As part of their training participants will be required to carry out youth ministry placements in their respective parishes, delivering or supporting new and existing initiatives or programmes. All participants will be supported by the Diocesan Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and a tutor assigned to them for the duration of the course. Spiritual Direction will also be made available and encouraged.

What Are The Entrance Requirements For Anyone Who Is Interested?

First of all and most importantly the person should be interested in getting a deeper understanding of their Christian faith, have a heart for young people and be willing to share their faith and knowledge with them at local level.

Secondly because of the collaborative nature of the role the following will also be required.

The applicant:

- Should be nominated or approved by their Parish Priest and will be interviewed for suitability by a panel comprised of Diocesan/Parish Personnel and St. Angela's College Personnel.
- Should be a Baptised practicing Catholic and be a person of faith with an enthusiasm for handing on the faith to youth and young adults.
- Should be living and settled in the parish and available to help out during the week and weekends if and when required by agreement.
- Will agree to volunteer for a minimum of 3 years subsequent to finishing training.
- Should be at least 21 Years of age but applications will be processed on a case by case basis.
- Should be able to engage with the course material, participate in class, open to learning and upskilling and willing to collaborate with their parish priest and other volunteers at local level in the area of youth ministry.

What Will The Course Content Consist Of?

Participants will receive Pastoral, Theological, Spiritual and Personal Formation with a particular emphasis on Leadership, Management and Communication Skills in the whole area of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. There will be particular focus on collaborative ministry working in conjunction with their priest and under his leadership. Participants will also receive practical experience in youth ministry, while being supported at local level, utilising some suggested youth ministry programmes already in place in the diocese.

How Much Will The Course Cost?

For successful applicants, all costs will be covered by their nominating Parish or Parishes as the case may be. The cost of the course to the parish or parishes for each successful applicant will be €2,100 (€700 per semester). This cost includes all course materials, lecturers and tutor fees and allowances, St. Angela's College fees, Venue Hire, Administration, Resources, Secretarial Support, Accreditation, etc. This cost is based on a minimum of 20 participants from the diocese.

How Long Will I Need To Commit To The Role After I Complete The Course?

Given the investment by the parish, each participant who successfully completes the course should be willing to volunteer in the role for a minimum of three years subsequent to its completion. The amount of time each volunteer is required to give will be agreed between him/her and his/her parish priest, taking into consideration personal circumstances, family, work, and other commitments they may have. Given that this is a voluntary role the volunteer will be able to negotiate what level of commitment they can give. However the volunteer should bring a spirit of generosity to the role and only consider taking on the training if they are in a position to give a minimum of 2 hours a week on average to the role.

Will The Parish Youth Minister Get Paid?

The role is a voluntary one where the person commits initially for three years to giving two hours a week to organising and delivering various youth ministry programmes. A parish may however decide to pay any personal expenses incurred by the youth minister through their role but this will be discretionary on its part.

Can A Cluster Of Parishes Work Together In Appointing Parish Youth Ministers?

Ideally there should be a minimum of one/two people from each parish. However for practical and financial reasons parishes may wish to join together in nominating a number of applicants who would then, if they successfully complete the course, act as Parish Youth Ministers for that group/cluster of parishes. Parishes in each cluster area are encouraged to consult on this.

What Is The Deadline for Applications?

The final date for receipt of applications is the 17th March 2019. This is to allow the Diocese to process the applications, set up interviews with applicants and begin the practical steps involved in running the course.

When and Where Will Interviews Take Place?

Interviews will take place on Saturday the 6th April 2019 at a central location in the Diocese. The purpose of the interview is to allow each applicant to get a richer sense of the role, allow for any questions he/she may have and also give the interview panel a sense of the suitability of the applicant for the role.

How Do I Apply For The Course?

Those who are interested should complete the application form overleaf, filling in all pertinent details including the contact details of two referees (one of whom must be your Parish Priest). The completed application form should be signed and dated by the applicant and their Parish Priest and sent to the following address: Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Elphin, St. Mary's, Temple Street, Sligo, F91 KTX2.

More Information:

If you would like to find out more or chat it over please contact: Frank McGuinness by telephone: 087 9880690 or by email: frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie

APPLICATION FORM



Parish Youth Ministry Leadership Training Course

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Relevant voluntary or youth work/ministry experience:

Why do you want to do this course?

Please provide the names and contact details of two people (one of whom must be your Parish Priest) whom we could contact for a reference.

(1) Name:

Address:

Phone:

(2) Name:

Address:

Phone:

Signed Applicant:

Date:

Signed Parish Priest:

Date:

Complete Application Form and Return to Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry,
St. Mary's, Temple Street, Sligo, F91 KTX2, no later than the 17th March 2019

Interviews will take place to select participants for the course.

All personal details will be stored in accordance with GDPR legislation and best practice guidance