

## Introduction

Priests are immensely important for the life of the faithful. They bring us the sacraments, they preach the truths of our Faith, and they lead us closer to God through their example and their ministry.

The Church is in great need of more holy priests today. Around the world where there is a shortage of priests, their absence is keenly felt and the faith lives of the people suffer.

In our modern world, it is not always easy for men to hear God's call to the priesthood or for them to respond to this call with an open heart. There are many distractions and worldly allurements that can prevent men with a priestly vocation from following God's call.

Let's offer prayers in this Novena for Vocations to the Priesthood that God will call more men to serve Him in the priesthood, and for the generous response of all whom He calls.

## Why Pray the Novena for Vocations to the Priesthood?

You can pray this novena for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Christchurch.

You can also use this novena to pray for the vocation of a particular man whom you know.

You can use this novena to pray for all men who are discerning the priesthood, or you can pray this novena for an increase in priestly vocations in the whole Church.

## Day 1

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

You know how great our need is for holy priests in our parishes. Through holy priests, many of the faithful are led to a deeper union with You and a greater devotion. When there are too few priests, many of Your people suffer spiritually.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to increase vocations to the diocesan priesthood.

Help us to rely on You more fully for all of our needs. Help us to grow in our reliance on You each day.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Day 8

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

You sometimes call men who have already served You in marriage and family life to a new vocation as a priest later in their lives. This path can be difficult for these men. We ask You to guide them to a deeper understanding of Your will for them.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to assist all widowed men who are discerning the priesthood!

Help us to grow in docility to Your will each day. Help us to be open to Your will even when You call us to do unexpected things.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Day 9

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

Your Church is in great need of more holy men to serve as priests. Though it sometimes seems that the scarcity of priests is a dire problem, You are able to bring more holy men to the priesthood and to reinvigorate the life of the Church through them.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to bring more holy men to the priesthood throughout the whole Church.

Help us to grow in love for You and Your Church each day. Help us to devote our lives to You more deeply each day.

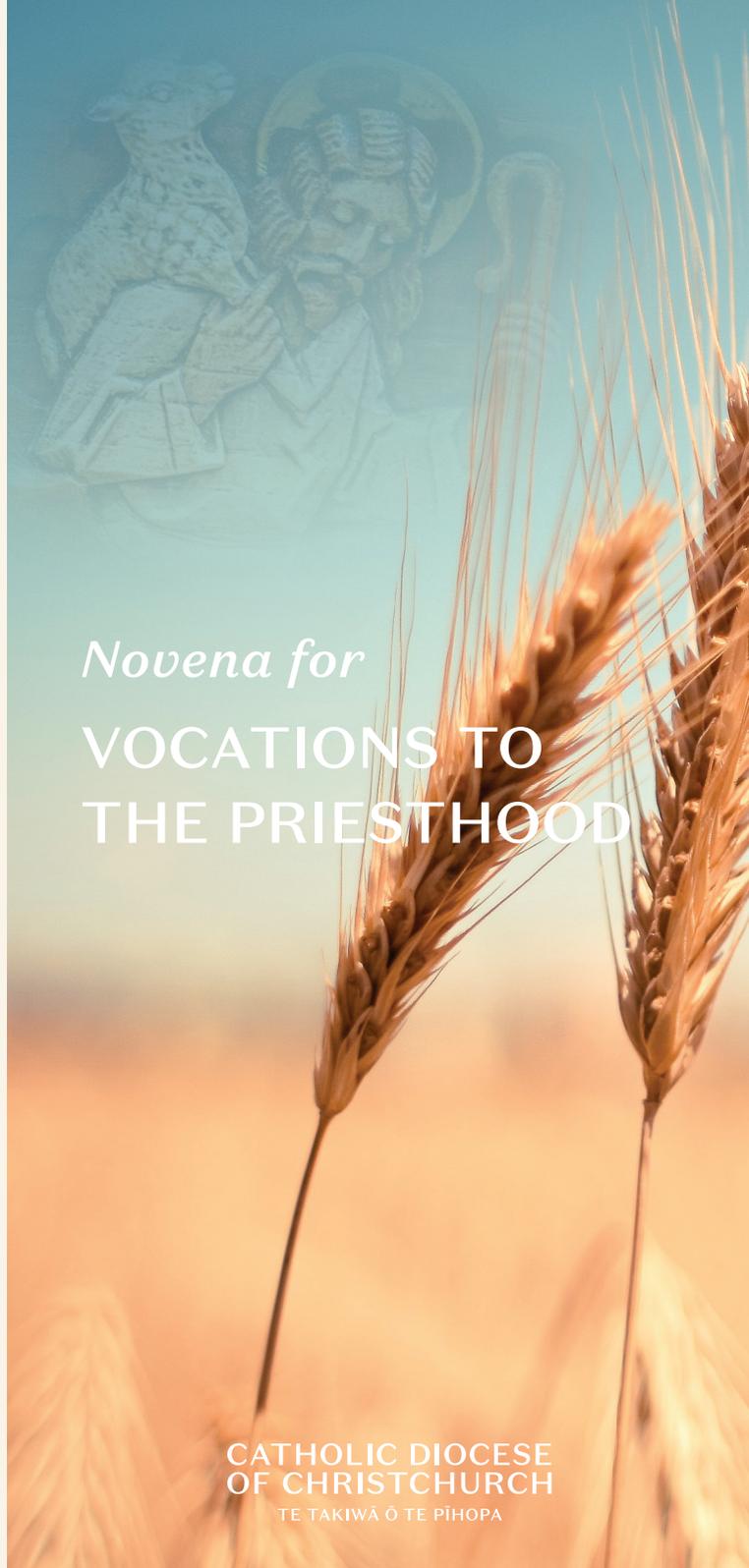
I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## For more information

Contact Matt O'Connell, 03 366 9869, moconnell@cdoc.nz or visit [www.cdoc.nz/what-we-do/vocations](http://www.cdoc.nz/what-we-do/vocations)



# Novena for VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

## Day 2

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

You have provided for the Church and for the faithful in a special way through religious orders. Each order carries out a particular service to Your Church, complimenting the many other gifts of the faithful and the clergy.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to increase vocations to the priesthood in religious orders.

Help us to grow in our devotion to You each day. Help us to be more eager to devote ourselves entirely to You in whatever ways You call us to.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Day 3

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

Religious formation of young people is very important for the fostering of vocations. You know well where we often fall short in the religious formation of young men in our Church today. We ask You to provide all that is needed for holy religious formation of young men, so that they may be ready to hear Your call in their lives.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to provide for the strong religious formation of young men.

Help us to open ourselves up to Your will for us each day. Help us to grow in love of You at all times.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Day 4

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

It is not always easy to discern Your will for our lives. The modern world provides many distractions and can often lead us away from Your voice. We ask You to open the hearts of all men whom You are calling to serve You in the priesthood.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to help all men discerning the priesthood to grow in openness to Your will!

Help us to grow in the desire to imitate You each day. Help us to devote our lives more fully to You at every opportunity.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Day 5

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

Discerning a priestly vocation can be a difficult process. Many men who are discerning their vocation are in need of strong and holy guidance from a priest. You know well how important holy priests are to the fostering of vocations within the Church.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to help all priests to provide the needed guidance to those who are discerning.

Help us to grow in intimacy with You. Help us to make our relationship with You a true priority in our lives.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Day 6

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

The formation of future priests is very important for their vocations. You wish for holy men to truly choose to serve You faithfully in the priesthood, and holy seminary formation can be instrumental to bringing this about.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to pour Your assistance on all institutions that form men who are discerning the priesthood!

Help us to grow in virtue and holiness at every opportunity You give us. Help us to do all we can to bring others closer to You.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Day 7

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the great gift that the priesthood is to us and to Your Church. We humbly ask You to call more men to serve You in the priesthood, and to provide for them everything they need to carry out this vocation faithfully.

Men who are discerning Your call to the priesthood are often in need of a lot of assistance from those who are experienced in vocational discernment. Vocation directors of diocese and religious orders have the important task of helping men understand Your will for their lives.

Please move more men to devote their lives to You in the priesthood, and we particularly ask You today to bless and assist all vocation directors with wisdom and understanding of Your will.

Help us to open ourselves up to Your will for our lives each day. Help us to do all we can to serve You as you desire us to.

I especially ask in this novena (mention your intentions here).

Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.