

Pastoral Ministry Office  
Damien House  
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HP16 9AA

Dear Father John,

Please find enclosed a few postcards for our new *Called & Equipped* programme. One of the strong themes from the Synod (and even before) was the need for adult formation in the diocese. In response, *Called & Equipped* has been developed for our diocese, as a year-long formation in discipleship. We cover the basics of Catholic teaching and also walk with participants on their journey of faith. We hope this will create a new generation of formed and skilled laity for the diocese.

While this would suit anyone in ministry in the parish, it might be particularly helpful for new people who have come forward to volunteer over the pandemic or with the Synod. There is nothing like an invitation from a priest! So it would be lovely if you could pass these postcards on to any parishioners who may particularly benefit.

We've raised the majority of the cost of the course from external funding, and majority of the remainder pays for the residential weekend which opens the programme. The costs of the course will be split three ways: £150 TIF, £150 parish, £150 individual. In this way parishes benefit while only paying a third of the costs. Anyone applying will need a supporting signature from their parish priest.

There is more information overleaf, and lots more online at <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/called/>. There will be an introductory webinar on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm: [https://calledequipped\\_webinar.eventbrite.co.uk](https://calledequipped_webinar.eventbrite.co.uk).

Many thanks and God bless,  
Fr Francis and Avril



# Information about the course

\*For anyone active in parish life or coming into ministry

\*Starts with a residential foundations weekend 6-8th May, and will have 24 weekly group sessions over the following year.

\*All materials are online, and small groups can meet face-to-face or over zoom.

\*Choice of small groups for participants running in different parts of the diocese, and on different days of the week.

\*Possibility of a bespoke group if there are enough people from your parish or pastoral area doing it.

\*The cost of the course, £450 including the residential weekend, will be split three ways: £150 from the diocesan Together in Faith Fund, £150 from the parish, and £150 from the individual.

\*There will be bursary places available for those unable to meet the individual payment.

## Course Content

We begin with a foundations weekend on 6-8th May, at the Kings Park Centre in Northampton (cost included). This will cover the kerygma, together with opportunities to explore different forms of prayer and spend time with small groups and mentors.

After that there will be 8 units, three sessions each. Our course creators feature some fantastic national and internationally known names, as well as our own home-grown talent.

1. Prayer and spirituality – Helen Burgess
2. Old Testament – Brian Purfield
3. New Testament – Brian Purfield
4. Sacraments and the Mass – Jo Boyce and Fr Francis Higgins
5. Catholic Social Teaching and ethics – Debbie Purfield and Jennifer Ossei-Brainoo
6. Mission and sharing our faith – Mission Northampton Dr Maria Heath
7. Pastoral skills – Deacon Erik Kerr
8. The laity, vocation and the Church – David Wells

All the content will be housed in our online learning platform that can be accessed at any time. There will be 24 weekly sessions in small groups either in person or online hosted by your mentor. Written reflections will be based around applying what participants have learned to their life and ministry so that they grow in skill and faith through the course as well as knowledge.

<https://pastoralministryoffice.org/called/>