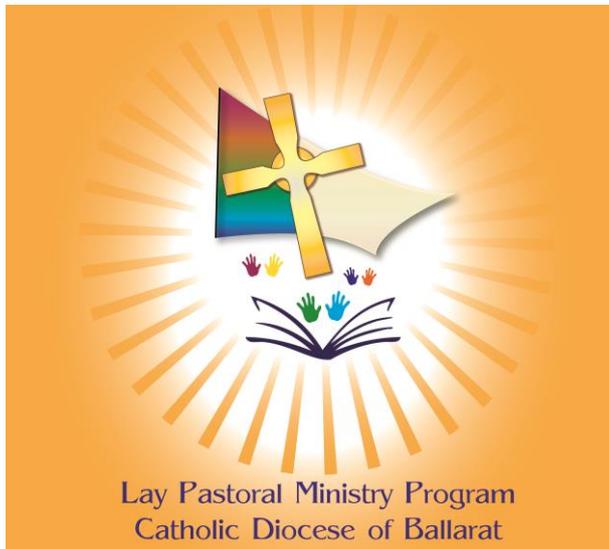




Diocesan e-News

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM



Opportunities for formation, support, study and accreditation for lay pastoral employees and volunteers in the Ballarat Diocese

in partnership with the Virtual Learning Community, Dayton University, Ohio.

The **Lay Pastoral Ministry Program** is an initiative emerging from the Diocese of Ballarat's *Looking Forward* pastoral planning process, facilitated by the Bishop's Advisory Council. This aligns with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference who has recently formed an advisory council: the Australian Catholic Council for Lay Pastoral Ministry.

Bishop Paul commented when announcing the initiative: "I am delighted that we have a ministry training program that is accessible to all. I invite you all to develop your skills in ministry."

Multi-faceted Ministry Program

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers the following:

- ◆ Opportunities for individuals and parishes to discern pathways for developing lay ministry skills.
- ◆ Practical support for parishes and individuals regarding paid and volunteer roles. This includes templates of Position Descriptions, salary levels, employment documents, and templates and guidelines for volunteer workers.
- ◆ Opportunities for lay workers, both paid and volunteer, to enhance their skills through formation and study.
- ◆ Opportunities for lay people to undertake a program of formation and study that is certified by the Diocese.
- ◆ As part of this formation, opportunities for formal supervision, attendance at retreats and other gatherings.
- ◆ Access to hard copies of study texts.
- ◆ Opportunities for informal support and networking amongst lay workers.
- ◆ Guidance for those who wish to explore further study, for example in theology or in specialised hospital or aged care ministry studies (through other course providers.)

The Diocese of Ballarat is one of seventy-six dioceses world-wide who are partnered with the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton, USA in their Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF).

Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation offers a wide range of subjects delivered as online courses of five weeks duration. There are six teaching cycles per year. Subjects have different levels. Areas of study include Liturgy, Sacraments & RCIA, Prayer, Leadership, Scripture, Church History, Social Justice and Youth Ministry. You choose your own study pathway or subjects, selected in consultation with the Facilitator of the Diocesan Lay Pastoral Ministry Program.

Please note, the opportunity to study with Dayton is available to anyone (18 years+) within the Ballarat Diocese. Priests should contact Fr John Monaghan, Clergy Life and Ministry for details. Religious should liaise with their Superior. Catholic Education Ballarat and other agencies will be contacting their staff members soon.

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers the opportunity for lay workers (paid or volunteer) to study individual subject/s or to undertake a six subject Certificate course.

Two courses are being certified by Ballarat Diocese:

- **Certificate in Pastoral Ministry**
- **Certificate in Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

More information is available on the Ballarat Diocese website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or contact Amanda Smith, Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Facilitator, 53377125 or 0427 748 867 or email: amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au