

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

It is envisaged a Certificate may take two years to complete, but there is no fixed time frame. Those who choose to start with individual subjects can transfer to a Certificate course. Completion of subject/s or Certificate, together with associated participation in local formation gatherings, will be certified by the Diocese.

Financial details

Since Ballarat Diocese is a VLCFF partner with Dayton University, subject fees are discounted. The current per subject fee is \$us50 (approx \$AUD68) for Diocesan participants. Each participant arranges payment of this through their parish or personally. There may be additional participation fees for retreats and formation gatherings.

The first available VLCFF teaching cycle commences on July 10 2016

www.vlcf.edu

More information is available on the Ballarat Diocese website:

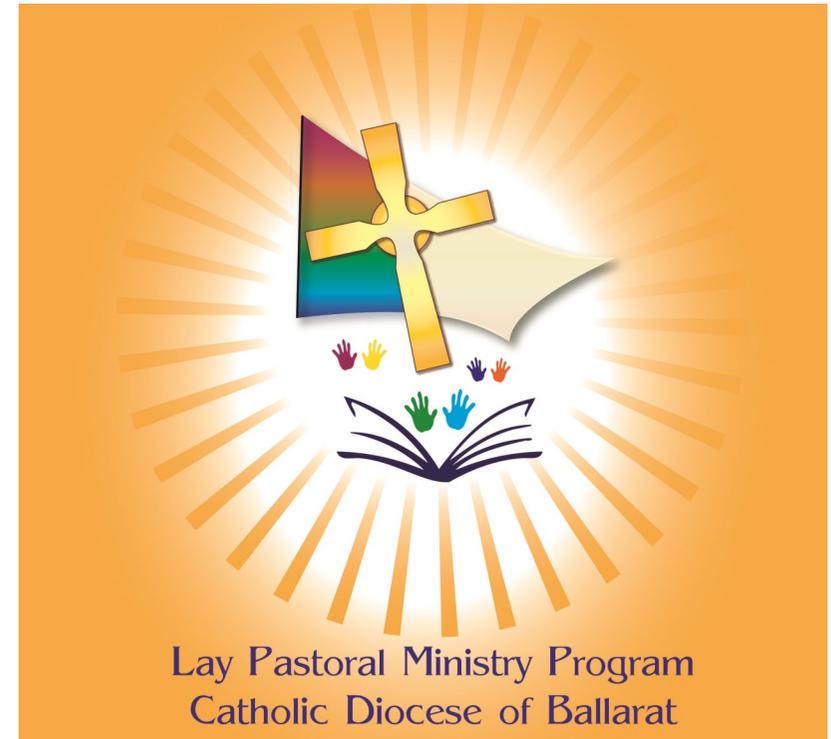
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

or contact Amanda Smith, Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Facilitator,

53377125 or 0427 748 867 or email:
amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Diocese of Ballarat

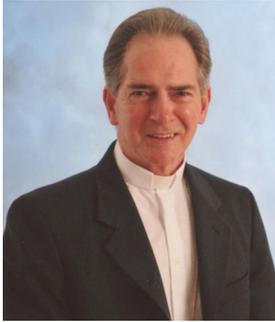
Lay Pastoral Ministry Program



**Opportunities for formation, support,
study and certification
for lay pastoral employees and volunteers
in the Ballarat Diocese
in partnership with
the Virtual Learning Community,
Dayton University**

Diocese of Ballarat

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program



Dear Friends,

I am most grateful for the wonderful ministries of so many people throughout the Diocese and I am delighted that we now have a ministry training program that is accessible to everyone. I invite you to make use of this training to develop your skills in ministry. God bless you all,

Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat

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's recent formation of an advisory council: the **Australian Catholic Council for Lay Pastoral Ministry**.

The *Looking Forward* Resource Document 2014 details a number of objectives under the heading "What can be done now to prepare well for the future", one of which is "The Diocese to initiate and share programs to develop skills and formation of lay people" (p.17). The Second Vatican Council highlighted the role of laity in several of its documents, notably the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* (Chapter 4) and the *Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People*. The latter notes "A training, at once many-sided and complete, is indispensable if the [lay] apostolate is to attain full efficacy." (#28). More recently Pope Francis in "The Joy of the Gospel" wrote: "The formation of the laity and the evangelisation of professional and intellectual life represent a significant pastoral challenge" (#102).

The Pope wrote: "Lay people are, put simply, the vast majority of the people of God" (#102). In the Diocese of Ballarat, there are many lay people working in different aspects of church life, both as paid and volunteer workers. There are more and more opportunities for laity to undertake pastoral roles including faith sharing, as well as practical and administrative roles. It is important that these workers have the chance to develop their skills through suitable formation. This Lay Pastoral Ministry Program has been developed in accordance with the document *Integrity in the Service of the Church* (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, 2011).

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).

Details of study opportunities

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

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.

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.

More details over page