



# Diocese of Ballarat

## Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

Online Subject Provider:  
The Virtual Learning Community, University of Dayton  
[www.vlccf.udayton.edu](http://www.vlccf.udayton.edu)

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers online study combined with Diocesan-based reflection groups, formation sessions and individual support.

### Who is this program for?

Lay women and men (18+) of the Diocese of Ballarat who are currently living in the diocese, who are engaged in parish and/or diocesan lay ministry as a volunteer or in a paid role.

Ballarat Diocese is a partner with the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, Dayton University, USA who provides the online subjects.

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers the opportunity for lay workers (paid or volunteer) to:

- ♦ study individual subject/s or
- ♦ to undertake a Certificate course

Two courses are certified by Ballarat Diocese:

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

- Subjects are done one at a time within a five week study cycle
- There are six study cycles per year
- You do not have to do a subject every study cycle
- Participants may do individual subjects or a focus group of subjects related to their Ministry
- A Certificate will include subjects from a range of subject levels, selected in consultation with the Diocesan Facilitator, and adding up to at least 11 points
- A Certificate includes participation in local formation gatherings
- A Certificate should be completed within two years
- Completion of the Certificate program, including participation in local formation gatherings, will be certified by the Diocese of Ballarat, with Dayton University
- All single subjects successfully completed will be certified by the Diocese of Ballarat, with Dayton University

### Diocesan Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

Subjects are each 5 weeks of online study at 6-10 hours per week

### Certificate Course

6 or more online subjects (studied one at a time) from a range of subject levels plus local formation and reflection sessions - attending 3 sessions and 1 Retreat in the 2 years, with written reflections on each

### Focus Strand

Undertake a number of subjects in a focus area of your choice eg Scripture or Social Justice. However this will not qualify for a Certificate

### Individual subject

Study an individual subject in your ministry area eg Bereavement Ministry, or Sacraments

### Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

#### Subjects:

- Faith & Human Development
- plus one Leadership subject from:
  - \* Collaboration and Community
  - \* Communication and Community
  - \* Leadership in Ministry
  - \* Vocation to Ministry
- and 4 or more other subjects making at least 11 points

### Certificate in Youth and Young Adult Ministry

#### Subjects:

- Faith & Human Development
- plus one Leadership subject from Pastoral Ministry list above
- A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry
- 2 other youth subjects
- and 1 or more other subject/s making at least 11 points

Individual support is available. Being part of a local support network is encouraged.

### Financial details

- The Ballarat Diocese is a VLCCF partner with Dayton University, so subject fees are discounted
- The current fee per subject is \$US50 (approx \$AUD75) for Diocesan participants. Each participant pays this at the start of each subject
- There may be additional participation fees for retreats and formation gatherings

**Ballarat Diocese reserves the right and discretion to not allow students to undertake or continue a Certificate or other participation in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program.**