

## About the Seminary

### Does everyone who enters the seminary become a priest?

Entering the seminary is an ongoing part of the discernment process, which may not be fully determined until after a number of years. Once ordained a man is a priest forever, however some men realise during their time in the seminary that they are not called to the priesthood and this is not a cause for shame.

### Are there entry requirements?

As well as being a committed Catholic, you will need to be in good health, physically and psychologically; able to relate well to others; capable of hard work and of undertaking tertiary studies.

### How long does one live in the seminary?

For most seminarians, it takes seven years from entry to the seminary to Ordination to the Priesthood. In special circumstances, some men do a shorter course, some take longer.

### What happens in the seminary?

Each year is a blend of **human, spiritual, academic** and **pastoral** formation. The prayerful study of the Word of God begins in first year and continues through the whole course. However, every year has a special character and emphasis. Here is a quick outline of the course:

- **1st Year** – Preparatory year, with special emphasis on spiritual foundations
- **2nd & 3rd Years** - Emphasis on the academic, esp. philosophy.
- **4th Year** - Emphasis on the pastoral; during this year, seminarians live and work with a parish priest.
- **5th Year** - Emphasis on the academic, esp. theology.
- **6th Year** - Full load of academic work continues; usually a year of final decision about ordination: many are ordained deacons at the end of this year.
- **7th Year** - Usually the culmination of the seminary course and the academic program; some spend it living in the parish, some in the College; many are ordained priests at the end of this year.

Seminarians complete a degree in Theology which includes studies in philosophy, history, etc. They are trained in public speaking, singing, communication skills, and counseling. For more details on the programme visit: <http://www.corpuschristcollege.org.au/formation.index.php>

### I'm interested, what should I do?

First, talk to your parish priest, then if you would like more detailed information or you have decided to enter the seminary contact the Diocesan Vocations Director (see over page), a priest appointed by the bishop to help men thinking about priesthood. He will guide you through the series of assessments and interviews that you will have to do.

# CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

## Prayer for Vocation

Almighty God,

You have made me to know you,  
to love you and to serve you.  
And thereby to find and to fulfill myself.

I know that you are in all things,  
And that every path can lead me to you.  
But of them all, there is one especially  
by which you want me to come to you.

Since I will do what you want of me,  
I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me:  
into my mind,  
to show me what you want of me:  
into my heart,  
to give me the determination to do it,  
and to do it with all my love, with all my mind  
and with all my strength right to the end.

Amen

### HELPFUL RESOURCES:

[www.melbournepriest.com](http://www.melbournepriest.com)  
[www.corpuschristcollege.org.au](http://www.corpuschristcollege.org.au)  
[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)  
[www.catholicovocations.org.au](http://www.catholicovocations.org.au)  
[www.usccb.org/vocations](http://www.usccb.org/vocations)  
[www.itistime.org.uk](http://www.itistime.org.uk)  
[www.calledtoday.com](http://www.calledtoday.com)

### Like to talk to someone about your vocation? Contact Catholic Vocations

383 Albert St., East Melbourne, 3002  
Ph: (03) 9926 5733  
Email: [melbcv@catholicvocation.org.au](mailto:melbcv@catholicvocation.org.au)  
Website: [www.catholicvocation.org.au](http://www.catholicvocation.org.au)



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[melbournepriest.com](http://melbournepriest.com)

## Michael Gallacher



## Seminarian



CATHOLIC VOCATIONS



## Michael Gallacher's Story

**Michael Gallacher is in his third year at the seminary for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Corpus Christi College in Carlton. We asked him what led him there and what life is like in the seminary...**

I took many steps over a five-year period before entering the seminary. The first thought about a vocation to the priesthood came when I was in Year 11 at Whitefriars College in Donvale. One day at school, one of the Carmelite Brothers joked with me and a friend about recruiting us to the priesthood. When he said it there was a little flutter of excitement in my heart, which I tried to ignore. At that stage, I was not going to Mass on Sundays. I believed in God, but only as a far-off person who I didn't think about much. Besides which, I had my life very well planned. I had a clear idea of the career I want to pursue and still had many goals to achieve in sport. So, I ignored the stir of excitement at the Carmelite's joke and I carried on.

Over the next few years, I couldn't stop thinking about the priesthood. Any time I was with priests, or if someone even

mentioned the word 'priest', I would feel excited deep down inside. I kept trying to push it away, but it didn't work. So one day I just decided that I'd be open to a vocation to the priesthood and once I stopped fighting the call, I felt a real sense of peace. I decided that if God was really calling me to the priesthood then that's what would make me happiest, so I might as well give the seminary a go.

Our programme in the seminary is quite varied. We study philosophy, theology, history and Scripture at Catholic Theological College. We also have in-house sessions run by the resident priests, developing areas of knowledge with a view to priesthood. The spiritual life of the seminary community includes praying the Divine Office, daily Mass, Exposition, the Rosary and retreats. Half a day a week is spent doing pastoral work, which includes time in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, universities, correction centres, parishes and various other ministries. We also have singing practice, drama and sport each week.

Despite a full programme, we still make time to have a bit of fun. It's handy living only a minute's walk from Lygon St coffee. Living in close contact with so many others on a daily basis can be very challenging – but worth it! It is fantastic to live with men who share my enthusiasm and excitement about the Catholic Faith and the priesthood.

One concern prior to entering the seminary was that I would no longer have much contact with my family or friends. However, I've

found that is not the case. With one day off a week, I am able to see my family and friends on a regular basis. I've also been able to stay involved in my local footy club during the winter months and athletics club during the summer. I still even manage to see the Mighty Blues play a few times each year!

My big hope is that I can be formed while I am in the seminary so that I can come out to be a holy priest one day. I hope that I am doing the will of God, and I really look forward to being able to administer the sacraments to people; to be able to preach and just to be able to share my life with Christ with other people, and to be able to bring people into that, by making God present to them in the Sacraments.

The seminary certainly has its challenges, but every life does. And it's an exciting time to be in the Church. Numbers of priests worldwide have been steadily increasing over the last five years. Numbers in Australia are becoming stronger. But we still need more.

If I could advise a young bloke who is wondering about the priesthood I would say this: talk to good, holy priests; pray lots (Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Vocations Retreats); read about priest-saints. And be courageous. If God really is calling you to be a priest, it'll be an exciting, fulfilling and happy life.

V O C A T I O N S

Michael Gallacher said yes when he heard God calling... will you?