

# DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a vocation?

How can I tell if I have a vocation?

What is the priesthood?

What are some of the required qualities for a candidate studying for the priesthood?

What should I do if I believe I am called to the priesthood?

How does someone become a priest?

How long is the formation for the priesthood?

Do all men upon entering the seminary become priests?

**To find out answers to these questions, visit [www.melbournepriest.com](http://www.melbournepriest.com) or contact Fr Binh Le at the Catholic Vocations office on 03 9926 5733**

## THE PRIEST

To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures;

To be a member of every family, yet belonging to none;

To share all sufferings, to penetrate all secrets, to share all wounds;

To go from humankind to God, and offer their prayers;

To return to humankind, and bring pardon and hope;

To have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for chastity;

To teach and to pardon, console and bless always.

My God, what a life!  
And it is yours  
O priest of Jesus Christ!

*Lacordaire*

## 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 fulfil myself.

I know 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.

## WEBSITES

[www.melbournepriest.com](http://www.melbournepriest.com)  
[www.corpuschristicollege.org.au](http://www.corpuschristicollege.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)

## ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A PRIEST?

Contact your local parish priest or:

**Fr Binh Le**  
Director of Vocations

Cardinal Knox Centre  
383 Albert St  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

**P 03 9926 5733**  
**E [info@melbournepriest.com](mailto:info@melbournepriest.com)**



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



FR CAMERON FORBES



## Fr Cameron Forbes is a Diocesan Priest for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

When I consider my path to the priesthood, it seems obvious that God works in mysterious ways! While my vocational story has taken plenty of twists and turns, looking back on it now I can see the hand of God gently guiding me in the direction of the priesthood over many years.

I was born in 1975, along with my twin sister. We had a very conventional childhood. Religion did not play a large part in the life of my family. My primary education was undertaken firstly at the local government primary school and then, from Grade Five onwards, I attended the local Anglican grammar school. It was here that I first began to develop my faith. As part of our regular timetable, all students attended chapel services twice a week.

In Grade Six, a very good school chaplain arrived, Fr Ramsay. He was well liked by the students and taught in a very effective and exciting way. His example first sparked my interest in the ordained ministry. I often used to visit him to talk about matters of faith, and I still regard him as a firm friend today. When I was twelve, he baptised me and prepared me for confirmation. At this same time, I joined the choir of my local Anglican parish. This meant that I began to be involved in the life of the local church, and even after I left the choir in Year Twelve, I would still attend church regularly.

Upon finishing school, I was accepted into Law and Arts at the University of Melbourne. Here I lived at one of the residential colleges and became very involved in the chapel ministry. I was also elected the Senior Student of the college, which taught me much about leadership and working with groups of people. At the same time, I became interested in Catholicism and began to read more widely about issues of faith. All the while, my sense of vocation remained, but for some reason I could not see a way forward. I studied at university for six years, also doing honours in political science. I wrote a thesis on the cabinet system of ministerial government, and afterwards was invited to work as a ministerial adviser for the government in Canberra.

It was in Canberra that I made the decision to become a Catholic, a decision which was both spiritual and intellectual. After being received into the Catholic Church, my sense of a priestly vocation became stronger than ever, and I began serious discernment. In some ways, I felt like I was 'treading water' in the workforce and needed to respond to the call I had been sensing for so long. While working at the Industrial Relations Commission in Melbourne, I contacted the Director of Vocations about my interest in priestly ministry. I took a discernment retreat, and decided to explore the issue further with a diocesan priest who had been recommended.

Soon after, I travelled to Europe with my sister, and through a series of amazing coincidences, ended up at a Papal Mass celebrated in Poland by Pope John Paul II. This was to be his last visit to his homeland and it was a very emotional one. While I was already in a process of vocational discernment, this experience proved to be very influential for me. Soon after my return to Australia, I decided to apply to Corpus Christi College, the provincial seminary for Victoria and Tasmania. I felt a great sense of peace that I had cooperated with God in the only way I knew how. That sense of peace remains with me to this day.

**Fr Cameron Forbes**  
Diocesan Priest