

# The National Novena for Vocations 2022



*Priests for Scotland*

*A Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland*

## ***Following the Shepherd 2022***

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. On this Sunday, the Church encourages all of us to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

Good Shepherd Sunday also provides an opportunity for all us to reflect on the gift and the mystery of the Priesthood. Priests are called to follow the example of Christ, the High Priest and Good Shepherd. But how do Priests live out this lofty calling in the communities to whom they minister? How do we encounter the Christ the Good Shepherd in the person of our parish priest, assistant priest or chaplain?

To answer these questions and to provide some focus to our prayers for Vocations, Priests for Scotland suggest we take some time to consider the word 'Shepherds' - for every letter of this word provides us with some insight into the nature of the Priestly vocation. We believe that our Priests, our shepherds, are –

- *Called to Serve,*
- *Called to Heal*
- *Called to Evangelise*
- *Called to Pray*
- *Called to bring Hope*
- *Called to Educate*
- *Called to Reconcile*
- *Called to Dedicate themselves to God alone*
- *Called to Search for the lost, the disposed and the marginalised.*

Retrieving the venerable practice of the Novena, it's suggested that as they journey towards Good Shepherd Sunday, parish communities, schools and other faith groups take one day to reflect on each of these qualities or elements of ordained ministry. For each day you will find provided a scripture reflection and an insight from either Pope Francis or Pope Benedict. On each day, you will also be requested to pray for Vocations in one of our eight dioceses here in Scotland.

Please take this opportunity to pray for Vocations in our country for, as the Lord reminds us 'the harvest is rich but the labourers are few' (Matthew 9:37).

Yours in Christ, Bishop John Keenan

President of the National Vocations Commission

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Day	Intention	Scripture	Reflection	Prayer
Day 1 Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Our Shepherds are called to <b>Service</b> . Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Aberdeen	<i>"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"</i> (Matthew 28:20)	"The Priest must be a dutiful servant who listens to people's need and builds a church whose doors are wide open, offering refuge for sinners, a home for the homeless, comfort for the sick and God's word and joy for the young" (Pope Francis - Homily at Chrism Mass 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2014)	Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts. Help us to live each day with joy and humility. Give us Priests who will totally dedicated to serving you in the Diocese of Aberdeen and throughout the whole of Scotland. Amen.
Day 2 Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2022	Our Shepherds are called to Heal. Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Dunkeld.	<i>"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls".</i> (Matthew 11: 28-30)	"The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm hearts; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. You have to heal people's wounds. Then we can talk about everything else..... <i>Heal the wounds</i> " (Pope Francis – Audience 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2014)	Father, we're your people. Jesus calls us to heal the broken--- hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn and to give hope to those who despair. Call forth from among us priests, sisters and deacons for the Diocese of Dunkeld and for the whole of Scotland. With our hearts continue to love your people. Amen
Day 3 Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022	Our Shepherds are called to evangelise. Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles.	<i>"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"</i> (Matthew 28:19)	"Evangelization consists in drawing near to those who feel distant from God and the Church, those who are fearful or indifferent, and saying to them: "The Lord, with great respect and love, is also calling you to be a part of his people" (Pope Francis – Homily 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2017)	Lord God, you so loved the world that you sent your only son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in him. May your Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen generous men and women to continue his mission in the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles and throughout Scotland. Amen

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Day 4 Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022	A Priest must be a man of <b>prayer</b> . Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Paisley.	<i>"...Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16)</i>	<i>"When we were called, we were not canonised. Each priest and religious continues to be a person in need of God's mercy and forgiveness, a person who must devote time to prayer." (Pope Francis - Address to Kenyan Seminarians 27.11.15)</i>	We pray that God may give to His Church today many more priests after His own heart. We pray that they may be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd. We pray that the Diocese of Paisley and the entire Church in Scotland may be blessed with Priests who devote themselves to prayer.
Day 5 Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Our Shepherds are called to bring <b>hope</b> . Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Motherwell.	<i>.....the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead (Mark 16:6)</i>	Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. ....With Jesus we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses.... We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals" (Pope Francis - Homily at the Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, 2013).	Heavenly Father, there are times when we feel helpless and times when we feel weak. Through your priests, remind us once more of the hope offered by your Gospel. We pray that the Diocese of Motherwell and the Church throughout Scotland will be blessed with Shepherds who will the Lord's hope to the communities they serve. Amen.

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Day 6 Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Our Shepherds are called to <b>teach</b> us the way of Jesus. Today we pray for Vocations in the Archdiocese of Glasgow.	<i>Jesus took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length (Mark 6:34)</i>	Priests have the sacred duty of teaching in the name of Christ the teacher. Impart to everyone the Word of God which you have received with joy ( <i>Pope Francis – Homily at Ordinations 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013</i> )	Eternal God, bless us our Shepherds in the Archdiocese of Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Grant that they always may be examples of your Truth and guide us always on the path to you. We ask these things of You our Eternal Priest. Amen.
Day 7 Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Our Shepherds are called to bring <b>reconciliation</b> Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Galloway.	<i>"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (2nd Cor5:18--19)</i>	Someone who comes to the confessional is seeking, pardon, comfort and peace. Let him find in you a father who embraces him and says. 'God loves you'. Don't get tired of forgiving. Be men of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation ( <i>Pope Francis Homily 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016</i> )	God our Father, You have chosen men in the Diocese of Galloway and throughout Scotland to faithful shepherds after your Son's Heart. Help them to serve Your people with humility and charity. Help them to be instruments of your reconciling love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, the High Priest and Good Shepherd. Amen
Day 8 Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Our shepherds are called to be <b>dedicated!</b> Today we pray for Vocations in the Archdiocese of Saint Andrew's and Edinburgh	<i>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:16-18)</i>	Dear priests of Scotland, you are called to holiness and to serve God's people by modelling your lives on the mystery of the Lord's cross.....Dedicate yourselves to God alone and you will become shining examples to young men of a holy, simple and joyful life: they, in their turn, will surely wish to join you in your single-minded service of God's people. (Homily Bellahouston, Glasgow, 16th September 2010)	Heavenly Father bless the Archdiocese of Edinburgh and the Church throughout Scotland with Priests who are dedicated to serving your people. May they be shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life.

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Day 9 Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 <i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i>	Our Shepherds are called to <b>search</b> for the lost. <b>Today we pray for Vocations to the Priesthood throughout Scotland.</b>	What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety--- nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? (Matthew 18:12)	All of us need to go beyond the four walls of the Church and go out and find those on the outskirts of life. (Pope Francis - Homily <i>12th February 2015</i> )	Jesus, Good Shepherd, we entrust to You in a particular way our country. Direct Your loving gaze to our many talented and gifted young people and invite them to follow You. Help them to understand that only in You they can achieve their fulfilment. Amen
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