



VOCATIONS AROUND THE CROSS

This resource is meant to be used alongside the [poster](#) for **Vocations Sunday 2021**.

The poster has at the centre the **crucifix that hangs over the altar in St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham** – the mother church of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

You might ask pupils what the composition of the poster shows. They may suggest:

- vocation comes from Jesus,
- he stretches his arms of love out the world through his call,
- vocations are centred on Christ,
- those living the vocations shown bring us to Jesus,
- just as Jesus loves us so much that he died for us, so we are called to give our lives in loving service to him and others.

Around the crucifix are shown the four primary, **permanent vocations** in the church:

- **Holy Orders:** ordained men - bishops, priests and deacons,
- **Religious Life:** living in a community of men or women who live a common way of life, with vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This life may be apostolic (brothers and sisters living active service to the Church) or contemplative (monks and nuns living a life of prayer),
- **Marriage:** a man and woman who have made lifelong vows to each other,
- **Apostolic Celibacy:** a committed, lay, single life.

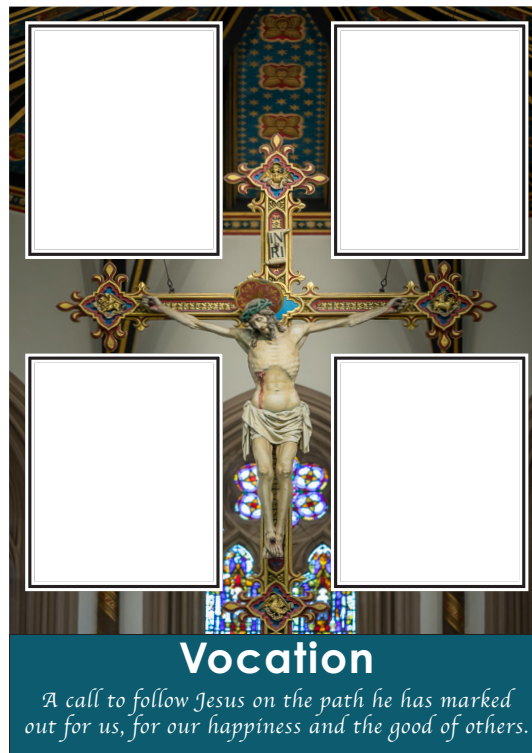
(Note that some people have more than one permanent vocation: many permanent deacons are married; some priests, as an exception, are married; some men in religious life are also in Holy Orders.)

The quotation is from Pope Francis. In one sentence, he beautifully conveys several messages about vocation:

- it links our call to the call of those apostles who were fishermen, but called to be “fishers of men”,
- every vocation is a call to follow Jesus,
- each of us has a vocation prepared for us,
- we must actively respond to God's call,
- our vocation is a plan for true happiness and fulfilment,
- every vocation involves serving others too.

This quotation has been summarised on the resource sheet to define ‘vocation’.

Suggestions for using the *Vocations Around the Cross* resource sheet



- Draw or write about four ways a pupil might hear God's call for them,
- find and record found different biblical accounts of God's call,
- label the four permanent vocations: list people you know living those vocations,
- draw or paint a portrait of someone living each of the four permanent vocations,
- draw how these people serve us,
- think about the qualities and charisms (spiritual gifts) people living these vocations need,
- compose a prayer for each of the vocations -
 - praising God for his wonderful call to follow his Son,
 - thanking him for what these people do for us,
 - asking for strength and blessings on their life,
 - asking that more people answer God's call to this vocation,
- find a saint for each state in life. Ask them to pray with us for vocations.

However you are marking Vocations Sunday in school, if you share your work or collective worship on Twitter, please tag the Diocesan Vocations Office - @AskInvitePray - we love seeing how a culture of vocation is built up in our schools!