



Koinwñía

**Adult Faith, Fellowship & Formation
in the Diocese of Cloyne**

2025-2027

at Mallow Campus of Further Education and Training

Koinōnía Cloyne is a two-year course for adults who wish to explore questions of faith and pastoral ministry. Participants develop their understanding of theology, spirituality and the celebration of the liturgy. The course will help lay Catholics in the Diocese of Cloyne become capable members of their parish and diocese.

The Koinōnía programme takes its lead from the “Jerusalem Spring” of the early Church (Acts 2:42-44). Having received the Good News, the first Christians met regularly to pray, to reflect on the teaching of the apostles and to share their talents. Over time, their generous communion (koinōnía) with the Lord and each other, became a sign of hope that many others would follow.

The faith, fellowship and formation of that first Christian community inspires the goals of the course.

Faith

Participants explore Catholic theology, spirituality and liturgy in a way that is suited to adult learners who may have little previous experience of formally studying the Christian faith.

Fellowship

The Koinōnía programme is guided by the principles of the Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church. We aim to create an atmosphere that is respectful, mutually supportive and committed to the goals of the course.

Formation

The course is intended to develop participants' personal faith and enable them to assist the mission of the Church. Among the emerging roles for lay Catholics are the ministries of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist. There are also new responsibilities in parish administration and the pastoral care of the sick and the bereaved, which the programme introduces.

Two Year, Weekly, Evening Course

The inaugural meeting of the Koinōnía programme will take place on September 30, 2025, and thereafter on Tuesdays from 7.00-9.00pm - 25 Tuesdays in all, between September and May. The venue will be the Mallow Campus of Further Education and Training, West End, Mallow P51 P732.

Year One: Among the topics for 2025-2026 are the Nicene Creed; The Gospel of St. Matthew; Wisdom in the Old Testament; Liturgical Environment; The Flourishing Parish; Sacrament of Reconciliation; Liturgies without a Priest; Lectio Divina; Music in the Liturgy; St. Augustine of Hippo; The Titles of Jesus; Youth Ministry; *Laudato si'* in Parishes; Marriage and Accord; Social Justice and the Season of Lent; Handing on the Faith.

Year Two will include evenings on the formation of the Bible; the Liturgical Cycle; the Examen; Maturing in Faith; the Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist; Mary in the New Testament; Baptism and Confirmation; Care of the Sick; Christology; Liturgy of the Hours; Easter Triduum; Reasons for Faith; the Irish Synodal Assemblies.

In addition to the weekly Koinōnía meeting, there will be ongoing support offered by the programme director and regular updates by email.

Two optional days of recollection in preparation for Advent and Lent will take place each year, as well as an end-of-year pilgrimage or opportunity for a residential retreat at a monastery.

Core texts, including the Revised New Jerusalem Bible and the Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults, are presented to participants at the first meeting, along with a calendar for Year One.

Meeting Format

The duration of each meeting is two hours. It opens with a time for prayer, in the tradition of the Evening Prayer of the Church. This is followed by a presentation on the topic for that evening by a guest lecturer. Summary notes, in the form of a handout, accompany the lecture. This is followed by the convening of Sharing Groups, facilitated by a group leader, which take up the theme of that meeting. Following a tea break, there is a summative Q&A with the presenter. Each gathering concludes with Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church.

Requirements

The main requirement is a desire to explore the Catholic faith with other adults, alongside a willingness to contribute to the pastoral life of your parish. Regular attendance is expected. Koinōnía Cloyne is non-assessed and there is no required written work, although the filing of a personal Learning Log is encouraged. Applications to join the 2025-2027 enrolment should be made by email (cloynemissionministry@gmail.com) or by telephone (022-46578). Places are limited. The nomination of your Parish Priest will be requested. The annual fee is €500 or €400 where there is more than one participant from the same parish. This will be sponsored in part or in full by the participant's parish and paid in December.

**For further information, contact Fr. Gerard Condon,
Office for Mission and Ministry,
Ballygriffin, Killavullen, County Cork P51 NX22.**



Message from the Programme Director

Welcome to Koinōnía Cloyne 2025-2027!

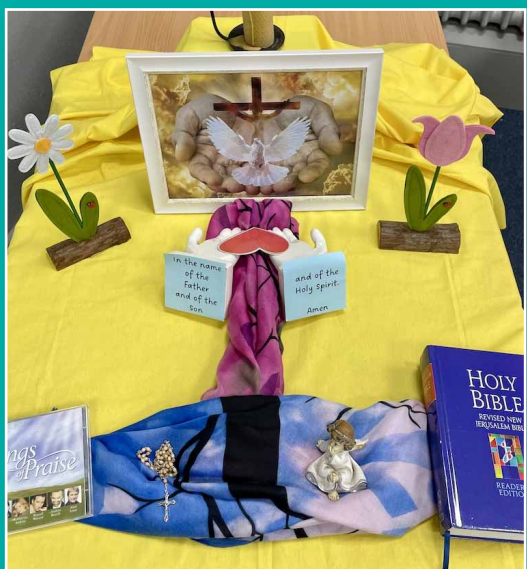
Our programme of adult faith development and ministry has been developed in the context of much social change in Ireland, fewer clergy and smaller congregations. That presents a challenge to parishes but it's also an opportunity. While church pews may have fewer worshippers, those who attend Mass have a greater level of commitment to their faith. They are the new "intentional Catholics" who experience the resilient hope that the Christian faith brings to their lives. They are attracted to the wisdom of the Church, the insight it offers, and are motivated by God's compassion for creation. They want their own voice to be heard. At long last, we are waking up to the teaching of Vatican II, that all the baptised, laity, clergy and religious, are called to jointly share in the Church's mission, each according to their own charism (Lumen Gentium 39-42; 1 Corinthians 12).

The Koinōnía programme is modelled on the priorities of the early Church: a religious faith based on the Christ event, fellowship with others and adult formation in the faith. Of the first followers of Jesus, it was said, "see how those Christians love one another". Theirs was a rich, wholesome experience of being Christian. Gradually, over the course of the succeeding centuries, the Church's teaching and leadership roles became restricted to priests and religious. Lay men and women were "ministered to" and lost their sense of agency. The Koinōnía programme seeks to redress that imbalance, helping participants to witness to their faith and share it with others as part of a worshipping community.

To date, twenty-eight participants have graduated from Koinōnía Cloyne. The personal evaluations of two of them are included here. Reading them may prompt you, or a fellow parishioner, to consider becoming part of our new enrolment.

Gillian Groeger, Mallow Parish

Entering an unfamiliar room full of unknown people was a bit daunting in October 2022, but from that first evening, it was clear that everyone in the group was in a similar position. We soon fell into a regular rhythm of evening prayer, lecture, small discussion group, a cup of tea and chat, feedback/questions and ending with night prayer. Taken together, those components summed up to something much greater than I expected. While we learnt many fascinating facts, explored different doctrines and prayed together, the things I will take away from the Koinōnía course are harder to capture in a few words.



I started with many questions, about my faith, the Church and our combined future. Through these two years, my personal faith developed immensely. It was affirming to speak to others who are passionate about their faith. Gaining knowledge about the Catholic faith has helped me to understand where I am.

The practical skill that the Koinōnía course helped me to develop is listening. In every small group discussion, I heard something wonderful from another student. It might have been a different perspective, a different question, or a different encounter with God. All of these have taught me to wait and listen to what others have to say. This practice of listening to people, in turn fed into the retreat days (two each year), which have helped me to listen to God, even if God doesn't speak with clearly audible words. I am sensing a new way of listening to God, each time I pray, whether on my own or with a group.

Looking to the future, I plan to use my learning to continue to grow, to deepen my listening skills and to always look for the light of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, I hope to contribute to spreading the knowledge of God's infinite love and help the Church with its mission.

Lisa Egan, Kanturk Parish

I initially skimmed over the notice in the parish bulletin inviting participants for Koinōnía Cloyne. Later, when I was asked if I would be interested in representing the parish in the programme I did so with some trepidation but I quickly discovered that my apprehension was completely unfounded and I found myself fascinated almost immediately. Throughout Koinōnía, we engaged in questioning, debating, and lively discussions within a supportive and inclusive environment. Our diverse group came from all over the Diocese. As we got to know each other better, we began to gain a great deal from the programme. We discovered that the essence of fellowship was having the freedom to express our thoughts and opinions, knowing that they would be heard and valued.

During the programme, we delved deeply into our Catholic faith with the help of knowledgeable speakers on a weekly basis. Additionally, we had reflective retreat days that further enhanced the learning experience. It was a joyful and privileged experience within a supportive and wonderful group.

The two-year course has had a profoundly positive impact on me. It has deepened my faith and increased my involvement in my parish. Moreover, it has boosted my self-confidence and I have gained a deeper appreciation for the power of fellowship. I have also made wonderful friends on the two-year journey we undertook together.

