



Koinwnía

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

2026-2028

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 assists 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 OUR PROGRAMME.

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 in Ireland. 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 the participants' personal faith and enable them to assist the Church's mission. 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, which the programme introduces.

Two Year, Weekly, Evening Course

The inaugural meeting of the Koinōnía programme will take place on September 29, 2026, and thereafter on most Tuesdays of the academic year, from 7.00-9.00pm from October to May. The venue will be the Mallow Campus of Further Education and Training, West End, Mallow, P51 P732.

Year One: (2026-2027) This year, we focus on the building blocks of theology and the tools Christians use for the pilgrimage of faith. Topics include the formation of the Bible; Jesus of Nazareth; the origins and development of Christianity; St Thomas Aquinas; the Liturgical Year; the Liturgy of the Hours; the Eucharist and the sacraments of initiation; personal prayer and reflective living; *Magnifica Humanitas*; moral Theology; Christian art; Parish Pastoral Councils.

Year Two: (2027-2028) Within the second year, we will address our response to the Gospel and the discernment of our personal vocation. Topics include the sacraments of healing and commitment; ecology and social justice in light of *Laudato Si'*; the Ministry of Catechist; funeral and bereavement ministry; parish administration; spiritual accompaniment and the Ignatian *Examen*; celebrating the Liturgy of the Word.

In addition to the weekly Koinōnía meeting, there is learning support offered by the programme director and regular updates by email. Two optional days of recollection take place each year, in preparation for Advent and Lent, 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. We open 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, or PowerPoint, accompany the lecture. This is followed by the *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 share in 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 *Learning Log* is encouraged. Applications to join the 2026-2028 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 for the programme is €500. 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 Koinōnia Cloyne 2026-2028!

Our programme of adult faith development and ministry has been developed in the context of much social change in Ireland, fewer clergy and declining religious practice. These changes present a challenge to parishes but also an opportunity to renew our understanding of the faith. While we have fewer worshippers, those who attend Mass show a greater level of commitment. They are the new “intentional disciples”, who experience the resilient hope that Christianity brings to their lives. They are attracted by the wisdom of the Church, the peace it offers, and are motivated by God’s compassion for creation. They also want their own voice to be heard. At long last, through necessity as much as by design, we are waking up to the teaching of Vatican II, that all the baptised, laity, clergy and religious, share in the Church’s mission, each according to their own charism (Lumen Gentium 39-42; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31).

The Koinōnía programme is modelled on the priorities of the early Church: a religion centred 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 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 oversight, helping participants to witness to their faith and share it with others as part of a worshipping community.

Since Koinōnía Cloyne began in 2022, fifty-four participants have graduated. The bonds of Christian fellowship and friendship, established over the course of the programme continue in the lives of its graduates and between parishes. Some testimonies from members are printed here. Reading them may prompt you, or a fellow parishioner, to consider becoming part of our new enrolment.



Graduation Mass with Bishop William Crean at Mallow Campus, May 26, 2026

Greta O'Sullivan, Cloyne (2026 graduate)

I saw Koinōnía as an opportunity to join a group that would offer new learning and understanding and broaden my circle of friends. The course offers a mixture of personal formation and an understanding of the practicalities of parish life. Each week introduced us to a new speaker and provided food-for-thought, which we took to our *circoli minori*. These break-out groups allowed participants to voice their opinions on what they heard, saw and learnt from the lecturer. The variety of participants - urban and rural, older and younger - helped me to learn more about the Catholic faith as it is lived today by people across the Diocese of Cloyne and beyond. I will miss Tuesdays in Mallow and look forward to meetings of the Koinōnía Graduate Group. The course has meant a lot to me: a weekly time-out, greater understanding of my faith and the opportunity to meet such a wonderful group of people.

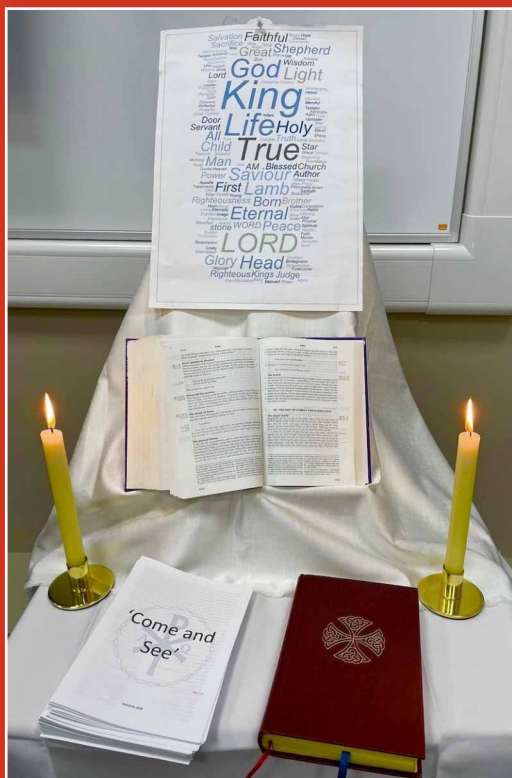
Mary Drumm, Newmarket (2026 graduate)

I saw the notice in the parish newsletter and was immediately drawn to participate. My faith is important to me, although I have to say that the prospect of two years felt like a big commitment. I lead a busy life with a full time job and family commitments, as well as my existing involvement with the Church. I wondered if I could afford the time to attend one night a week. I am so glad I did. Koinōnía Cloyne was a very enriching experience that gave me insight into the direction the Church is travelling and how we, as lay people, can play our part in its renewal.

Lisa Fitzgerald, Buttevant (2025 Graduate)

The weekly Koinōnía meeting became a beautiful sanctuary in my life. Discussions ranged over a variety of topics that I hadn't experienced before on my faith journey: from the teachings of Jesus and the Old Testament to the writings of St Paul and St Augustine. We learnt about the theory and practice of the sacraments and the reasons for our belief in God. I had prior acquaintance with these topics, but their significance was opened up for me in a new way. The course has helped me to become more reflective and see where God is found in my daily life. It has also reminded me of the importance of fellowship with others in the faith. I have met some wonderful people in the discussion groups. Going forward I want to be a positive example of Christian faith and support in my parish.

Anthony McDonnell, Midleton (Second Year)



Weekly Sacred Space

I have always felt closely connected to the Catholic Church through the sacraments and personal prayer but before joining this course, I still lacked an understanding of the reasons why we believe in Jesus. I knew very little about the Bible and the Church's doctrine. I was letting my faith just plod along. The course has given me the skill to be more attentive to God in my daily life and visualise the Gospel story as it is being read at Mass. It has encouraged me to be an active participant in discussions and, equally, an active listener within the wider group. I am grateful for the opportunities for formation in the Christian faith that the Koinōnía Programme provides.