


# SATURDAY SESSIONS

GROW & SHARE FAITH

WITH  
**Dr Aoife McGrath**

 DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA



## What is Lay Pastoral Ministry?

Dr Aoife McGrath

**You are invited to create community online as we gather to share and grow faith.**

### **How to Prepare and Run a Session:**

Read *Saturday Sessions 'How To' Guide* for information how to host a Saturday Session. This is available at <https://thewell.org.au/video/saturday-sessions-how-to-guide/>

### **Presentation:**

Lay Pastoral Ministry

Dr Aoife McGrath

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUFCXX4oR3Q>

Approx. 25 minutes 2020

Aoife McGrath, Director of Pastoral Theology at the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland, introduces us to the foundations of Lay Pastoral Ministry.

### **About the Presenter:**

Aoife McGrath has a Doctorate in Moral Theology from the Pontifical University, Maynooth and an MA in Chaplaincy Studies and Pastoral Work from Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin City University. She has worked as a Parish Pastoral Worker in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

She conducted research for the Catholic Education Service (of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference) on Catholic Tertiary Education, producing a Report on the Catholic Higher Education Landscape in Ireland (April 2013) and another entitled The Future of Catholic Third Level Education in Ireland: Models, Clustering, & Theology in the Academy (February 2014).

She worked as a Research Assistant with the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, Melbourne (2014), working on the project Priests in Australia 1950-2010, which was commissioned by The Truth Justice and Healing Council.

She was employed as a Project Officer with the Christian Research Association, Melbourne (2015) to undertake research Exploring Lay Pastoral Ministry in the Catholic Church in Australia (January 2016), which was commissioned by the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference.

On the basis of that research, she was invited by the Australian Catholic Council for Lay Pastoral Ministry to be involved in the drafting of a national guidelines document, Faithful Stewards of God's Grace, which was launched during Proclaim 2018.

After returning to Ireland, Aoife worked as a lecturer in Pastoral Theology, and Academic and Pastoral Support Coordinator, at the Pontifical University, Maynooth. She was appointed to the position of Director of Pastoral Theology in September 2019.

In November 2018, she participated in the Weaving Theology in Oceania: Culture, Context and Practice conference, which took place in Fiji and was organized by the Association for Practical Theology in Oceania (APTO). The papers from that conference are now published in a book of the

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same title, including Aoife's paper on 'Striving for Authenticity in Ministry Formation and Practice': <https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-5275-5855-7> Aoife is still an APTO member.

## Questions to Ponder:

*These questions are only a sample of the many questions that could be generated from the presentation. Use these questions or create your own questions for your small group.*

1. What do you understand by Lay Pastoral Ministry?
2. "We all have a theology." How would you articulate your theology?
3. What is the rightful place of Lay People in the Church?
4. What were your responses to the questions that Aoife presented?
5. How do we encourage all, working with leadership, to involve lay ministers in the support and growth of communities?
6. Do you feel a competitive nature between Baptismal priesthood and Ministerial priesthood? What is understood by both? And how do we foster collaboration rather than a competitive spirit?
7. Baptism - do we have a full understanding of what it means to be baptised?
8. What are further questions you have about Lay Pastoral Ministry?

## Further Support:

If you would like further support to bring to life a Saturday Session, please contact Lisa at the Pastoral Planning Office at [lisa.bright@parracatholic.org](mailto:lisa.bright@parracatholic.org)

For information about Zoom please contact the Pastoral Planning Office or you can watch a Zoom tutorial at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

The Pastoral Planning Office thanks you for your enduring faith, hope, love and commitment as we venture into the deep. We pray that you experience the peace and grace that our God offers and can be an ambassador of Christ's hope and peace to those you encounter and accompany.

Please contact the Pastoral Planning Office for support in all areas of pastoral ministry.

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