



Archdiocese of Liverpool

# Training Course for Lay Funeral Ministers

Tuesday 20th &  
Wednesday 21st  
June 2017 at LACE



# Who?

The course is for lay people who have been selected by their parish priests to serve the community by leading funeral services when there is no priest or deacon available or when it is pastorally desirable for a lay person to lead a particular service.

They will be individuals who:

- are sensitive to the varied feelings, experiences and needs of bereaved people
- have the confidence and skills to lead liturgical services
- are willing and able to work with others as part of a parish bereavement team, valuing the differing contributions of different ministries
- are free during the day
- have complied with the requirements of the Archdiocesan policy for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

# What?

The course will cover:

- The importance of this role
- Relating sensitively to bereaved people
- The stages of grief
- Understanding the Funeral Rites:
  - the Prayer Vigil, usually the evening before the funeral
  - the Funeral, which may be a Mass or a Funeral Service
  - the Committal at the cemetery or crematorium
- Skills for presiding at liturgical services
- Practicalities of working with undertakers
- Getting to know local practice



# When?

The course will be held over two days, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June 2017, 10.00am-4.00pm. It is essential that participants are able to attend both days.

# Where?

The course will take place at the Archdiocesan Conference Centre, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA.

# What happens after the course?

Before being commissioned, participants will meet with their parish priest to prepare for beginning to exercise this ministry. Once commissioned they will be provided with inservice training on a regular basis and a named course team member will offer them continuing support.

# Cost

The cost will be £100 per participant. This includes lunch on both days.

# Course Team

The course will be led by members of the Funerals Working Party, which includes priests, a deacon, a funeral director, a religious sister, and lay people with experience of leading funerals.

# How to apply

Applications are invited from parish priests who have selected candidates to be trained for this ministry.

For more details and application forms, please contact:

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# Comments

## *A newly trained Funeral Minister said:*

- Thank you for a wonderful two days
- such sensitive, thorough and non-threatening presentations
  - the friendliness, sharing and exceptional catering and hospitality.

## *A team of experienced Funeral Ministers wrote:*

It's a wonderful humbling privilege that our bereaved families allow us into their lives at this most vulnerable time and share the stories of the life and death of their loved ones. Each family is unique and it is important to them that the uniqueness of their loved one comes across at our services. We feel blessed to be called to this ministry and to walk with our families on this journey of love.

## *A parish priest wrote:*

Our funeral team have transformed the way our parish cares for bereaved families. Where I used to do my best to meet their needs, now the team brings a variety of gifts to this vital and sensitive task, making real the vision of the Order of Christian Funerals that the ministry of consolation is the responsibility of the whole Christian community.

**Lord God,  
you are attentive to  
the voice of our pleading.  
Let us find in your Son  
comfort in our sadness,  
certainty in our doubt,  
and courage to live through this hour.  
Make our faith strong  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**