



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of Deacons

22 – 23 February 2025

This weekend, we joyfully celebrate the Jubilee of Deacons, giving thanks for their steadfast service and unwavering commitment to the Church and its people. Deacons are called to embody the spirit of Christ's servant heart, dedicating their lives to ministering in compassion, humility, and love. They reach out to those in need, offer comfort to the suffering, and strengthen our communities through acts of faith and service.

Today, we honour their vital role in our Church, acknowledging their devotion and the countless ways they guide us closer to God through their words and deeds. Let us give thanks for their ministry and pray for their continued strength and grace in their calling.

Prayers

Example prayers of the faithful

For deacons, that they may be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and embody the love and compassion of Christ. May they see their brothers and sisters through His eyes, serving them as Christ Himself would. **E te Ariki...**

Other prayers for Deacons

Prayer for Deacons

O Christ, You are the source of all ministry in the Church. In response to the needs of the People of God, through the laying on of hands and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, You have called forth and ordained deacons as servants for our Church.

Continue to sustain those You have called to this ministry, so they remain ardent servants with gentle hearts, proclaiming the Gospel and serving at Your Holy table.

Help them reflect the real and true presence of Christ, the Deacon, to the needy among us. We also give thanks for those who accompany these men in their journey of service—their wives and families, their parish communities, and all those who call them to respond in faith, hope, and love.





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Loving Savior, continue to help Your Church affirm our deacons in their service. Together as one family of faith, may all that we say and do give honour and glory to You and draw others ever closer to Your Sacred Heart. Amen.

From VocationMinistry.com

Explore the deeply meaningful prayers said by a deacon, which reflect their commitment to humility, service, and spiritual readiness for their sacred role. These prayers, often silent but powerful, prepare them to serve the Church and lead others in faith. Learn more about the significance of these prayers at <https://www.guardian-angels.org/guardian-angels-news/prayers-of-a-deacon/>.

Reflection on the Jubilee of Deacons

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 22 – 23 February 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.

There are two types of deacons in the Roman Catholic Church: transitional deacons and permanent deacons.

"Transitional deacons" are men who serve as deacons for a short time before they are ordained as priests.

"Permanent deacons" are men, whether single or married, who have chosen not to become priests but instead serve the Church permanently as deacons. They serve as a public sacramental sign and the presence of Christ in service outside of the Church and in the secular world.

Like priests, deacons are members of the clergy who share in the ministry of the Bishop. However, deacons may also have a wife, a family, and a secular job. They typically continue their employment and are not financially compensated by the Church. Their primary responsibilities are to their family and their employment. A deacon remains equally engaged in his ministry, whether at home or at work, serving as a permanent symbol of "Christ the Servant" in the Church's ministry today, regardless of his location or activity.

Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate must undergo several years of formation and instruction in scripture, theology, preaching, evangelisation, counselling, and pastoral care. This journey requires deep commitment and sacrifice, not only from the candidates but also from their families, who are involved in the training and ministries.





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I am deeply grateful to have been chosen by God to serve as a Permanent Married Deacon. The path to embracing this calling hasn't been without its challenges and doubts, but I have come to understand the profound impact and importance of this role. My journey officially began on July 1, 2018, and I am fully committed to serving God and His people in this new and significant capacity.

The role of an Ordained Permanent Married Deacon is truly unique and special. It demands a twofold commitment to family life and ministry within the Church. Balancing these responsibilities can be challenging if not fully understood and supported. As a Permanent Married Deacon, I am immensely grateful for the divine plan set before me and for the unwavering support of my family.

On the day of my ordination as a Permanent Married Deacon, I solemnly vowed to let the principles of "Believe what you read," "Teach what you believe," and "Practice what you teach" guide my work and actions. Finding fulfilment, joy, and peace in this calling has been a humbling and rewarding experience. I am thankful to God for entrusting me with this role, and I ask for the strength to serve Him with honour and humility.

Reverend Deacon Tevita Fakaosi

Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the provided prayers of the faithful or write your own**
Craft prayers specifically for deacons, focusing on their role in service, their dedication to the Church, and their work in the community.
- **Use other prayers during gatherings throughout the week**
Incorporate prayers for deacons in all community gatherings, asking for God's continued guidance and strength for those in the diaconate, and for their families who support them in their vocation.
- **Read out the reflection during mass or in your faith communities, or have copies of it available for people to reflect on privately**
Share a reflection during Mass or community events that highlights the unique role of deacons in the Church. Provide printed copies for private reflection and encourage individuals to consider the deacon's ministry of service to others.
- **Learn About the Diaconate**
Organise an informational session or a discussion on the diaconate, exploring the history, role, and spiritual significance of deacons in the Church. Encourage parishioners to learn about this vocation and consider whether God may be calling them to this ministry.

