

## Called and Gifted is for Everyone! - 22nd June 2024

We all have different gifts and we all have charisms (gifts given to everyone who is baptised) that can be used to build up the church.

Called and Gifted is coming to our parish on 22nd June and you are invited to discover your gifts.

Here are experiences from a few parishioners who have experienced Called and Gifted:

Sandra:



My charisms were Mercy and Giving I remember that when the list of places we could use our charism came up I saw Prison. It was definitely Our Lord or the Holy Spirit working in me, I had never been inside a prison before in my life. I signed up to be an Official Prison Visitor. I had to wait for my clearance first which took a while. I did this for nearly 4 years until the Covid lockdown.

About a year ago I heard of a new role in the prison as a helper to Fr Jean Patrice. It is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. We chat to the men before and after mass I was a bit shy at first, but over time you get to know some of the men really well. It is as rewarding for us as it is for the men; their faces light up when they see you. I love it.

Deacon Tony



Called and Gifted certainly helped me gain confidence that certain things that I found rewarding might be for the Church. One was writing, which is wonderful since I now have to write homilies. Another was music - I am so happy that I managed to get through singing the Exultet at the Easter vigil without a train crash!

The 'methodology' helped me to ask questions of myself from the perspective of another (what do other people say they think I'm good at ... ?) which, surprisingly, I had rarely considered before. It was good to have plenary input sessions, group sessions, practical exercises, and a one to one reflection opportunity.

I would encourage others to take the opportunity to prepare spiritually, by: taking time to reflect on *why*

we should seek to understand our charisms, responding to the universal call to holiness; the call for all of us to be saints in our own unique ways; realising our baptismal vocation and particular vocations such as parenthood, and spending more time in prayer, at Mass and adoration.

Mike



As Christians, we are all called to use our charisms in our lives. We now know that everyone has at least one charism and many people have 3,4 or even 5. And our charisms can be unexpected! For example I have the charism of Hospitality... this is odd because my family and any friends who have eaten anything I have cooked would all agree that I am definitely not a cordon-bleu chef! But I have this gift of Hospitality because whenever I see somebody standing alone outside a group I have this strong desire to introduce that person standing alone to people in the group and to make that person feel comfortable and welcomed. I highly recommend the course as the way for each of us to meet our Pope's challenge to identify and use our charisms.

Liza



Called and Gifted was a rich experience for me as I started to discern how I can live out my faith as a lay person using my charisms. I feel a real excitement about our Church alive and active with the Holy Spirit flowing through us. It is a delight to discover my gifts; one of mine is Pastoring and I am now a school pastor which I find very rewarding. It is also good to learn to stand aside and enjoy seeing others use their charisms when I do not have them. It is a window on how we can be a church of many parts acting as a one body empowered by the Holy Spirit ... but it's also a down to earth, accessible, easy to understand and enjoyable to do. Why not discover more about who you are! As St Catherine of Siena says: "be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire."