

Norms for accepting Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Diocese of Menevia

Men who are interested in becoming a permanent deacon in either the Archdiocese of Cardiff or the Diocese of Menevia should meet the following criteria:

- Be a baptised and confirmed Catholic man at least thirty-five years old but not older than fifty-eight at the time of applying.
- Be a committed and active member of a parish of the Diocese over a number of years, including having exercised some significant parish responsibility for a number of years.
- Be a citizen of the UK.
- If a recent convert, be a practicing Catholic for at least five years
- If married, be in a healthy, valid Catholic marriage for at least five years
- If married, have the approval and support of one's wife and family. Children should not be too young so that you are free to do the training which involves some time away from the family home.
- If unmarried, be freely willing to embrace celibacy at ordination
- Be in good health and financially independent
- Have the support of one's parish priest
- Be proficient in writing and speaking English. Proficiency in Welsh is a bonus.
- Have a legacy of service to the Church and the community
- Exhibit concern for the poor and needy.
- Be able to relate well with others
- Have the capacity to engage with serious intellectual formation
- Be open to discern one's vocation and willing to accept that one may not be called to the diaconate.

The formation program to become a permanent deacon lasts 4 years: a propaedeutic year of discernment and three years of integrated formation. Formation is overseen by the Director of the Permanent Diaconate Programme, Fr Allan Davies-Hale and his Team in Cardiff, and by Fr Matt Roche-Saunders in Menevia. They work in close collaboration with St Mary's College, Oscott.

Discernment with potential candidates will explore what Diocesan contribution each can make, e.g. in Caritas, Property, Youth work, Chaplaincy provision (school,

hospital, prison etc.), evangelisation and catechesis, etc., as well as engagement in their local parish.