

**Message from Fr Peter Zwaans**  
Director of Vocations

When discerning a vocation  
our first question is often, understandably,  
‘what does God want from me?’

But the first question must be:  
‘what does God want for me?’

A vocation is first and foremost a gift  
and our response to his invitation is  
to say ‘yes’ to however he longs to love  
and bless us throughout our lives.

Are we afraid of saying ‘yes’?

Often, we are.

But Jesus reminds us that:

‘I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full.’

Saying ‘yes’ to his call is to say ‘yes’  
to every way in which he longs  
to fill us with life.

## Diocesan Vocations Prayer

Jesus,  
you are the Good Shepherd,  
who is always mindful  
of your Church.

Watch over those who are  
baptised in your name,  
and grant peace and harmony  
to all families.

We ask you to choose  
from the families of our parishes  
many priests, sisters and brothers  
who will gladly spend their lives  
in making you known and loved.

Amen

# Vocations

**Awareness Week**

**1–8 AUGUST 2021**

Every Christian  
through baptism  
has a vocation —  
a calling to work  
for the Kingdom.

In Vocations Week,  
we pray particularly  
for those who are called to be  
religious sisters or brothers,  
deacons or priests.’

Olek and Anthony were ordained as deacons  
by Archbishop Patrick O’Regan  
on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, a pivotal step  
on the road to priesthood.



### For more information:

Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

☎ 08 8352 3561

✉ [vocations@adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@adelaide.catholic.org.au)

Printed with permission



[vocationsadelaide.catholic.org.au](http://vocationsadelaide.catholic.org.au)

Archdiocese of Adelaide



‘Pray for our  
Seminarians ...  
spread the Good News.’



Olek Stirrat

**Olek Stirrat**

I grew up in the Parish of the Annunciation at Hectorville.

My parents are Alex and Renata and I have a brother, Chris. My secondary schooling was done through home schooling.

Before I entered the seminary I obtained a degree in chemical engineering and biotechnology.

My sense of calling to the priesthood arose and was nourished through prayer, that deep and personal relationship with God who inflamed my heart with love for him.

**James Thomson**

My time in the seminary has truly been a wonderful experience.

Being able to study in Boston USA has opened my eyes to how universal our Church is.

There are seminarians here from all walks of life and from every corner of the world. It's inspiring to live, study and learn from such men who are true witnesses to our faith.

The study can at times be intense and I do feel a long way from home. However, seeing my fellow

classmates ordained to the priesthood just a few months ago has confirmed my reasons for being here.

Seminary life is incredible but this is not my vocation. My vocation is to become, God willing, a priest to serve my Australian sisters and brothers in Christ.



James Thomson



Blake Crossley

**Blake Crossley is 34 years old and originally from Murray Bridge.**

Before joining the seminary I practised as a pharmacist for ten years. My vocation was more of a persistent calling that I finally decided I needed to act upon.

I first tested my vocation with the Dominican Friars, spending 18 months with them before deciding that the diocesan priesthood was better suited to me.

I enjoy cycling, running, following the footy and dabble in a bit of music.



Joshua McDermid

**Joshua McDermid, a third-year seminarian, was born and grew up in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, attending St Francis Xavier's Regional Catholic School and Gleeson College.**

After graduating from high school, I worked for 11 years within Catholic education. For four years I was a Youth Minister while studying English, History and Education at the University of Adelaide and then seven years as a secondary teacher. Most recently, I was Curriculum Leader: English and Literacy at Cardijn College, Noarlunga Downs. Apart from this I have been a Council Member of the South Australian English Teachers Association, a moderator and examination marker for the SACE Board. I played lawn bowls in my spare time for the Toorak-Burnside Bowling Club.

At Corpus Christi College, I am enjoying sharing this journey with brothers committed to their faith, encountering a range of people during pastoral work, and learning from the lecturers at Catholic Theological College.



Anthony Beltrame

**Anthony Beltrame**  
Life for me began as the youngest of five children.

Though we lived simply, love abounded in our home, and for mum and dad there was no sacrifice too great to be made. After leaving Rostrevor College becoming a priest was not immediately my plan. Growing up I wanted to get married and have a big family. However it was after a long overseas holiday in 2014 that I realised this wasn't God's plan for my life ... I began to think of nothing else but the priesthood. This was a great surprise to my family, and to me.

Last year I was ordained a deacon and soon I will be serving Christ's people as an ordained priest. It is a dignity I am certainly not worthy of, but I can think of no better way of spending my life.

**Edward Ibarra**  
(EJ Ibarra)  
My home parish is Salisbury where I went to primary school at Holy Family Catholic School, Parafield Gardens.



Edward Ibarra

My first years of secondary school were in Blackfriars Priory and my senior years were spent at Australian Science and Mathematics School. I also finished a degree in architecture at Uni SA. It was during my time in uni that I was able to discern my vocation.

It was through deep prayer in Mass and Adoration that I managed to hear God's call. I am currently in my 3rd year of study at Corpus Christi College in Melbourne.

I ask for your prayers as I continue my discernment. God-willing I will be able to serve you as a priest. Be assured that I will be praying for you all in return. God bless!