

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY

In the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

ACADEMIC AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION PROCESS

The academic and other requirements for ordination in this Diocese, as presently outlined in the *Information for Enquirers* booklet, apply to all candidates for ordination, inclusive of OLM's. Candidates should read the material carefully, and discuss it with their vicar and other mentors as part of their own individual discernment.

In introducing the possibility of OLM, the Diocese of Melbourne is aware of the need for flexibility, especially in situations where OLM candidates have commitments to a workplace, for example. The Diocese also appreciates that OLM's will be self-supporting, and are not paid by the context in which they will minister, and will take this into consideration during the selection and formation process.

THE LOCAL CONTEXT

One of the distinguishing features of ordained local ministry is that it arises out of, and has its origins in, the local context from which the OLM emerges. An appreciation of the particularity of ordained local ministry, and its essentially local context, will, therefore, be part of the selection and formation process, and the journey towards ordination, for OLM candidates.

REQUESTS FOR TRANSITIONS TO NEW MINISTRIES

The experience in other places is that some clergy initially licensed as OLM's subsequently seek permission to transition to other ministry roles. The Diocese of Melbourne has determined that a person licensed as an OLM will not normally be considered for another position or license in the first five years from ordination.



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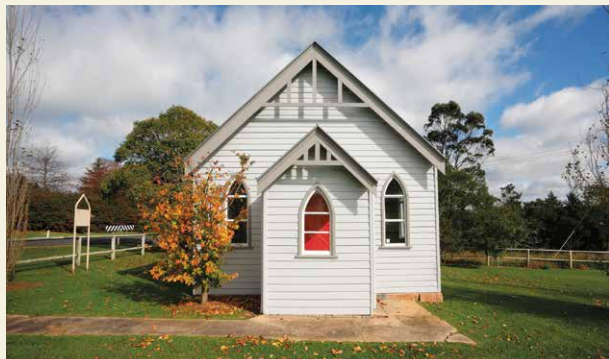


WHAT IS ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY?

Ordained Local Ministry (OLM) is not readily familiar to many in the Diocese of Melbourne, but is well-established in other Australian dioceses, and in the Church of England.

It describes a vocational ministry that is essentially local, in that that the ministry is geographically or parochially contained by license for its duration, typically to a single parish or congregation, rather than the cleric being deployable across the diocese or beyond.

OLM's usually minister in an assisting role, in a non-stipendiary (honorary) capacity. The Diocese of Melbourne resolved to introduce a licence for Ordained Local Minister in 2022, after two years of consultation and planning. The Archbishop in Council ratified this in April 2022.



KEY FEATURES OF ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY

- It is **ordained** – OLM's are ordained in the Anglican Church in the same way as any and every other expression of ordained ministry – there is not a separate or parallel selection process and OLM's are ordained alongside other ordinands in the same service.
- It is **local** – a key feature of OLM is that the ministry is intentionally geographically or parochially contained, typically to a single parish or congregation, for its entire duration. The OLM ministers only in this context and is not deployable across the diocese or beyond.
- It is an **assistant** or supporting role – a further key feature being that OLM's are assistant clergy, working under the direction of a team leader, usually a vicar, but in some circumstances another cleric.
- It is **non-stipendiary (honorary)** – OLM's are either employed in another role or occupation and derive their income from that, or are self-supporting.



SOME EXAMPLES OF ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY

There are many areas in which an OLM may be licensed and appointed to serve in ministry after ordination. The examples below do not exhaust the many and varied possibilities for ordained local ministry in the Diocese of Melbourne.

1. Parish ministry, in which pastoral needs have not been able to be met, or are struggling to be met due to a lack of resources. This may be a multi-centre or multi-congregational parish or an under-resourced single-centre parish. The introduction of a vocational OLM in a self-supporting, assisting role, can provide assistance to meeting the pastoral and other needs of such a parish and relieve pressure on other clergy and lay ministers and leaders.
2. Co-operating parish arrangements. Where the Diocese has resolved that it is strategically desirable to maintain a ministry presence in a certain locale, the appointment of an OLM in a self-supporting, assisting role, working under the leadership and supervision of another clergyperson such as a neighbouring vicar, provides one option to achieve this objective.
3. Appointments to language specific ministry, which may be an individual congregation within a multi-congregational parish, or individual parishes or authorised congregations.