

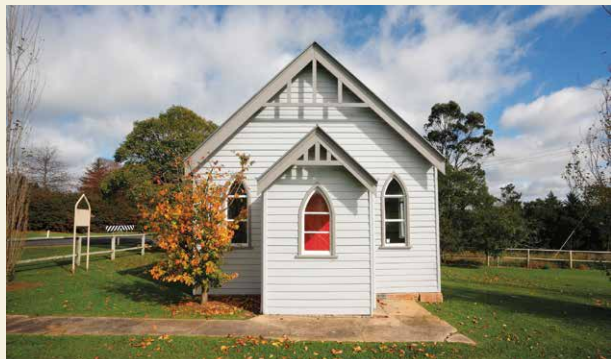


WHAT IS ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY?

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.