

Lay Ministry in Smaller Parishes

This seminar is for married couples or single men who want to explore opportunities to serve as lay people in some of our smaller parishes that can no longer afford to have a full-time minister (Mungindi, Baradine, Nundle, Ashford, Northstar/Boggabilla, Mullaley/Tambar Springs, Emmaville/Deepwater are some of the parishes needing this kind of support). Preaching, leading services and pastoral visitation are all important when it comes to encouraging our Christian brothers and sisters in smaller centres.

Three possibilities for lay ministry will be outlined in the seminar:

1. Lay preaching - visiting a smaller parish two or three times a term to lead and preach.
2. Lay Locum work – once or twice a year. This involves living in a small parish vicarage for 5 or 6 weeks at a time, and keeping the wheels turning through leading, preaching, and pastoral visitation.
3. Ordained lay ministry – moving to a small parish and serving in all aspects of parish ministry for 3-5years.

At the seminar Bishop Rod Chiswell will be interviewing married couples who have been involved at each level of lay ministry in small parish settings, and outlining the pathways for training that are necessary for each.