



## **INTRODUCING: A SPIRITUAL FORMATION JOURNEY FOR LAY LEADERSHIP**

by Rev Tembeka Mpako-Ntusi

It is an indisputable fact that lay leadership is the bedrock of the parish. Even though Lay Leaders are volunteers in the true sense of the word, the growth, development, and sustainability of the parish depends entirely on their willingness to work under the guidance and leadership of the Rector. It also depends on their willingness to work together as an effective and efficient team.

Lay leadership is a divine calling, for a Christian to provide or perform services that contribute to worship, liturgy, and the spread of the Gospel. These indispensable services need to be planned, structured, managed, sustained and documented. That is where the Parish Council, Parish Executive, and the entire lay leadership fit in.

However, there is still a missing link which has been identified as 'Spiritual dryness' or lack of adequate spirituality for some of the lay leadership. One might have the good intentions, the necessary commitment and the relevant skills, without adequate fundamental spiritual foundation underlying the performance of divine service. Sometimes there is aggressive vying for these positions of lay leadership, for the status and recognition they carry. That vying tends to undermine the spiritual basis and humility of providing a purely selfless service to God and for God's people.

Therefore, it has been deemed proper and fitting to provide some level of Spiritual Formation, focusing on a basic personal relationship with God, that guides individual behaviour.

The purpose of this Spiritual Formation journey is to deepen the spirituality of each participant, and bring them close to God as they serve God and contribute to the smooth running of worship and liturgy and the parish. Hopefully this will result in personal transformation that will add value to their good intentions. The Lent theme on 'Vocation and Calling' forms an integral part of this journey.





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by Caroline de Wet

Who am I called to be? How do I figure that out?

How am I called to live? What am I called to do?

We're going on a journey together to better equip us for our ministry in the life of St Oswald's and to fulfil the aims our rector has for us as a church.

- Empowering leadership
- Gift-orientated ministry
- Passionate spirituality
- Functional structures
- Inspiring worship services
- Holistic small groups
- Evangelism/outreach
- Loving relationships

It is important to know from the outset that we are all different. God made us as different individuals to serve different purposes in the world and the church.

To be honest I am not keen on the Tea or Welcome ministries. I would much rather be a reader, preacher or teacher. I used to feel bad that I didn't want to serve in the kitchen but then I realised that many would not like to be in an upfront position either. And that's ok. Thank goodness we are all different. Yet we need to know that each ministry is important and each ministry is necessary for a healthy happy effective church.

When we serve as Christians, whether in the church, home or society, we need to serve through the power of the Holy Spirit. So before we start this journey, in the first session, we are going to reflect on our own personal spiritual journey up to this point in time. And again, because we are all different, our journeys will have been different and that is also ok.

We're also going to do an exercise that helps us discern our spiritual gifts, so that as we journey further, we know where to focus our energies. This might clarify for you that you are indeed going in the right direction and are doing what God has equipped you to do and blessed you to be. On the other hand, you might discover that the ministry you are involved in is not actually right for you and that you are better suited to another area of service. You might even discover that for now your time should be used serving God through your immediate family, especially if you have young children or a sick family member.

This is an exciting journey where we might discover new things about ourselves, so come along with us, so that together we can grow.

