

Change a life

What?

This is a simple event and the key resource is the people you invite to share their story. You need two or three people who will describe how a priest, brother or sister has impacted their lives for the better. Here is a sample event format:

- **Welcome**, drinks and nibbles
- **Icebreaker** using the coasters
- **Short group discussion** about 'change' based on the quote revealed in the icebreaker.
- **First story** from a person whose life was changed because of meeting a priest.
- **Refresh drinks** and encourage conversation about what has been shared so far.
- **Second story** from a person whose life was changed for the better because due to the influence of a religious sister or brother.
- **Group sharing**. Invite people to share, in pairs or small groups, their own experiences of how a priest, sister or brother has helped their lives change for the better.
- **Moment of prayer**. Invite those present to join you in a moment of prayer.
- **Publicise events** that may be of interest to the group before ending the formal time of gathering.

For supporting material please visit www.ukvocation.org.

Why?

The 'Talk about Vocations' event provides an opportunity for everyone to share experiences of how a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life has changed their lives for the better.

By inviting people to tell their stories of how the priesthood or consecrated life has made an impact on them, it is our hope that this event will:

- raise awareness of how God acts through these vocations.
- provide an opportunity to thank God for those living out these callings.
- stir a response in those who are being called to these ways of life.

Coaster Icebreaker

Before the event place the coasters on the tables face up, so that the images of individual priests or religious are visible. Make sure you have one of each of the pack of six on the same table.

Begin the activity by asking everyone to turn their coasters over.

Ask them, in groups of six, to solve the picture puzzle and tell you the message it reveals.

For different variations of this game please visit:

www.ukvocation.org

When?

The Sunday afternoon or evening of the 4th Sunday of Easter would be ideal but not essential. This event can be arranged whenever you want to encourage people to talk about vocations.

It would also be a useful taster event before launching long courses for those thinking about God's call in their life, such as a discernment group.

Where?

For many people, the most natural setting for a conversation is a café or local pub. Why not consider taking the church out into the local area by organising this event in a pub or café. The coasters provided have been created with just such a venue in mind.

Some coffee shops, such as Costa, encourage the local community to meet in their shops and will often offer your participants discounted drinks or free nibbles.

Who?

Although all are welcome to such an event, the ideal people to invite are those who are asking the big questions of life. Reflecting this in the advertising of your event will be the key to attracting those who are searching for meaning.

How?

This event is made even easier with a team who can help with the preparations. Overleaf is a sample checklist that suggests tasks to be completed to ensure the smooth running of your event.

Recognising that every event will be different there is space to add to add tasks specific to your needs.

Task	Person Responsible	Completed
Three weeks before the event		
Invite people to help organise the event		
Approach venue and set a date		
Advertise a 'save this date' in the newsletter		
Begin praying for those who will participate		
Purchase extra resources such as coasters and prayer cards using the order form enclosed or by visiting www.ukvocation.org		
Two weeks before the event		
Plan the content with the organising team		
Invite three people to speak		
Feature information about this event in the newsletter and on parish communications		
Create a simple invite that answer the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? and Why?		
One week before the event		
Flyers given out at parish masses and events		
Touch base with venue, speakers and organising team to make sure all is set		
Delegate responsibilities such as set up, welcome, clear up		