



Deacon Ray Williamson

Ten years ago, a conversation with a priest changed my life. He recognised in me something that I hadn't seen in myself, that God was acting in my life, and I was being called to do and to be more. That was the start of a journey towards ordination as a Permanent Deacon and a level of spiritual fulfilment which I could never have imagined. This journey hasn't been without difficulty and wouldn't have been possible at all without the support of my wife and family. A door was opened, and I chose to walk through it. I have since discovered charisms that I didn't know that I possessed.

Discernment of the call, and being formed as a Deacon, is a lengthy and challenging process, which shouldn't be underestimated. Finding the balance between my three vocations of family, career as an architect, and diaconal ministry has been a challenge, but I have managed in time to find balance and purpose.

It is a great privilege of my ministry to accompany families in the most significant moments of their lives, in the baptism of new life, in the union of two lives, and in thanksgiving and memorial of those that they have lost. I thank God for His grace given to me.

I will be forever grateful for that life changing moment a decade ago.