

Mark Yates

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Submission Date Feb 25, 2026 8:33 PM

Name: Mark Yates

Age: 55

Original Home Village, Town or City: Higher Walton, Preston

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: St Laurence, Chorley and St Peter, Chorley

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry? Property, Facilities and Contracts Manager

In one word, how would you describe what ordination means to you? Fulfilment

Please give some insight (a few sentences) about your ordination decision? Submitting myself for discernment by the Church of God for the Priesthood represented a continuous vocational journey in my life. Upon acceptance, it was a significant milestone as to have this calling formally recognised, enabled me to serve the church in support of advancing Christ's love among those I am sent to serve.

What inspired you most during your ordination training? The love of God in Jesus for those like me, called from varying walks of life to serve His Church.

What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year? As a newly ordained Priest, the challenge will be to develop new peer, parish, and diocese relationships that will assist me in administering my sacramental ministry. In developing these relationships, they will assist with many ministry opportunities to spread the Gospel good news of Jesus.

Share some thoughts (a few sentences for each point) about how you will support the Bishop in achieving these aims, and also how you will encourage others to do the same?

Justice – I am committed to advocating for marginalised individuals within our community by collaborating with my local parish and the broader diocese. Additionally, I will pursue opportunities to engage with and further support community initiatives that foster meaningful connections between the church and the wider society.

Children and Young People – I consider our schools to be fundamental in cultivating hope among the youth. I will proactively partner with local educational institutions and youth organisations to make the church's presence and values evident within these environments.

The effectiveness of these initiatives relies on the dedication of those whom Christ inspires to serve. I will encourage, welcome, nurture, and support all individuals who feel led by the Spirit to contribute as volunteers.

Please share some insights about what you personally and/or your church may be doing online; particularly anything innovative and successful you have done that other churches may be able to replicate.

Having recently returned to the United Kingdom, my participation in online activities has been minimal. Nevertheless, my current parish maintains a robust online presence, and I intend to engage actively in these efforts.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I have 5 children - Isaac 30, Ellora 28, Gracie 22, Elijah 19 & Angel 17.

My parents, Barrie & Kathleen, are both still living, aged 78.

I have one sibling, Louise.

What do you do in your free time?

Motorbike riding, attending the gym, coffee catch-ups, reading, scuba diving, and walking.

Tell us something people don't know about you that might surprise them?

I worked as a restaurant waiter on a Greek Island for a year.