

Recent news on women deacons

THE IRISH TIMES

[Next archbishop of Dublin would like to see women deacons in Church](#)

Patsy McGarry

The Irish Times, Jan. 2, 2021

Dublin's Catholic archbishop-elect Dermot Farrell has said he would like to see women becoming deacons in the Church. He said the biggest barrier to female priests in the Catholic Church "is probably tradition, not the scriptures." "Women have almost preserved the faith in the church, certainly in this country and probably beyond," he said in an interview before he assumes the role on February 2nd.



[German women are already studying to be deacons](#)

Mada Jurado

Novena, Sept. 11, 2020

This Friday in the motherhouse of the Waldbreitbach Franciscan Sisters in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, 16 women will begin a three-year course with the title "Diaconal leadership service for women" to prepare them for the day in which the diaconate is opened to women.

"I can't say when, but I am firmly convinced – as are all the men and women in the network – that the efforts to open the diaconate to women will bear fruit at some point," said Irmentraud Kobusch, the chairwoman of the group organising the classes.



[Women are already deacons](#)

Mary Ring

The Tablet, April 24, 2020

"Post-pandemic, although everything may seem the same, nothing can be the same again. When and whilst the grief subsides, wonderful new opportunities are opening doors, setting wide the windows, letting in the sunlight. Many of us already breathe in this new air, this refreshing spirit."



The limits of a pontificate ([Part I](#)) ([Part II](#))

Massimo Faggioli

La Croix International, April 14-15, 2020

“The issues of synodality and the ministry of women are not part of a liberal agenda that is largely passé, but part of the mission to evangelize. ...There is no credible synodality without a new role for women in the Church. ... Many practicing and loyal Catholics have a sense that their Church is refusing to recognize an obvious ‘sign of the times’ – that God is asking the Church to change.”



Taking the Catholic Pulse

[Evolving door: New Year may bring new opportunities for women at Vatican](#)

Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service, Jan. 12, 2020

“Ordained women deacons are historically documented, doctrinally permissible and pastorally necessary,” Phyllis Zagano said, but many continue to hold the belief that ordination of women to any ministry in the Church is impossible because a woman “cannot image Christ.” ...

“Until that hard barrier, so ingrained so deeply in much of the Curia and Vatican staff, is overcome, there will be no advancement for women inside or outside the Church,” Zagano said, “and women will continue to be disrespected in large parts of the world.” ...

Unfortunately, she said, until Francis “has a woman standing next to him proclaiming the Gospel, nothing he says about women will be heard.”



[Synod participant: Women are already doing the work of deacons in the Amazon](#)

Luke Hansen

America Media, Nov. 7, 2019

Deacon Francisco Andrade de Lima, 45, of Tefé, Brazil, who serves as the executive secretary of North Region 1 of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, said that “women are taking on more and more ministries” in both rural and urban communities in his region, as leaders of Catholic communities, catechists, ministers of the Word,

bringing holy Communion to people, and also as extraordinary ministers of baptism, a mandate received from the bishop. ...

Concerning the possibility of ordaining women as permanent deacons, the deacon said, “I don’t see any problem because often women are already performing what deacons are doing.” ... The church needs to reflect on this possibility from a “vocational perspective,” he said “because there are several women, many women, who are called to this ministry but other women prefer to continue carrying out the same ministry” they are already doing. ...

“There should be a way of rethinking the hierarchical structure of the church,” he added.



[Historic Ordination: Tehran Prelacy of the Armenian Church Ordains Deaconess](#)

Hratch Tchilingirian

Armenian Weekly, Jan. 16, 2018

In explaining the purpose of the ordination, Archbishop Sebouh Sarkissian, Primate of the Prelacy of Tehran, said: “Today, our Church is confronting the imperative of self-examination and self-critique. ... It is our deep conviction that the active participation of women in the life of our Church would allow Armenian women to be involved more enthusiastically and vigorously, and would allow them to be connected and engaged. They would provide dedicated and loving service [to the people]. ... It is with this deep conviction that we are performing this ordination, with the hope that we are neither the first nor the last to do it.”