



THE NATIONAL BOARD OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

for England & Wales

Amplifying the voice of women

The role of Diocesan Link

Thank you for saying yes to becoming a Diocesan Link (DL) for the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW). Your role is vital in building communion, encouraging participation, and advancing the mission of Catholic women in the Church. We are really looking forward to getting to know you better and to supporting you as a key volunteer.

The purpose of the diocesan link role

- To act as a living link between your diocese and the NBCW. The DL works with the NBCW to ensure communication pathways are in place.
 - To foster meaningful engagement with women across parishes.
 - To support synodal work by promoting dialogue and collaboration with Church leadership- Working synodally with your Bishop.
-

The Key Responsibilities

- Two-Way Communication: Share updates from the NBCW with your diocese and report diocesan insights back to the NBCW.
 - Meetings: Attend NBCW board meetings to represent your diocese.
 - Listening & Reporting: Actively listen to women's concerns and needs, report these via diocesan summaries or NBCW forums.
 - Encouragement & Promotion: Inspire local women to share stories and best practices, and promote NBCW initiatives locally.
 - Bishop Liaison: Regularly update your Bishop according to his preferences; discuss your short- and long-term plans with him.
-

What this might look like: (each diocese will look different)

- An annual Diocesan event for women
- A page on the Diocesan website for local Catholic women's groups to advertise their work
- An annual synodal women's forum
- A newsletter

Some DLs give about four hours a month to the role, while others much more, it is up to you how involved you'd like to be.

Getting Started: First Steps

1. Connect with Your Bishop: Clarify his expectations, preferred communication methods, and frequency of updates.
 2. Familiarize Yourself with NBCW: Visit www.nbcw.co.uk and explore sections like “About Us,” “Committees,” “Diocesan Links,” and “Events.”
 3. Reach Out: Introduce yourself to key parish contacts (e.g., parish secretaries, women’s groups, and pastoral councils).
 4. Set Goals: Develop a personal plan with short- and long-term objectives for outreach and engagement in agreement with your Bishop.
-

Tips for Success

- Know Your Diocese: Each diocese is different; adapt your approach to its unique character and needs.
 - Use Online Tools: Use social media or email groups to connect with women who aren’t in formal parish groups.
 - Attend Local Events: Participate in diocesan events and use them as opportunities to network and introduce yourself.
 - Stay Informed: Regularly check NBCW updates, attend training or formation opportunities, and stay connected to other DLs.
-

Regular Activities

- Send brief reports or updates to NBCW after local events.
 - Stay in touch with your Bishop and your diocesan communications team.
 - Participate in the Annual Diocesan Synodal Forum (DSF).
-

Support and Community

- DL Network: You’re not alone—reach out to other DLs via the NBCW website.
 - Mentorship: You can contact other NBCW members for guidance.
 - NBCW Executive Team: The team, including the VP for Formation and DL Link Support, is here to help.
-

The Annual Diocesan Synodal Forum (DSF)

- To amplify the voices of women in England and Wales the NBCW will annually offer two questions for discussion.
 - Your role is to ask these questions of women in your diocese and to feed their responses back to the NBCW and your Bishop
-

Your Impact

You play a critical part in ensuring Catholic women’s voices are heard and valued. Through your presence and witness, you help shape a more inclusive, listening Church.

Welcome to the team — we’re so glad you’re here!

Find our more at nbcw.co.uk