



**St. Francis prayed before this cross  
at San Damiano and was inspired to  
rebuild the church.**

## **Secular Franciscan Life**

As Secular Franciscans, we meet as a community each month. During this time we reflect on, discuss and embrace the Word of God, we develop our understanding of what it means to be Franciscan and we offer each other mutual support on our faith journey. Inspired by the action of the Spirit we live out our call as Secular Franciscans as we go about our daily living. This may be in our families, our work environment or in society in general.

## **Who can be a Secular Franciscan?**

Anyone who wishes to follow the gospel in the spirit of St. Francis and who is not a member of a religious order can become a Secular Franciscan. Participation in the various gatherings and activities of the lay Franciscan community forms part of the way of life.

**For further information please contact:  
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## **Secular Franciscans Ennis**



*Living the Gospel  
in the spirit of St. Francis*

## The Secular Franciscan Order

*The rule of life for seculars was originally drawn up by St. Francis in 1221. There have been Secular Franciscans in Ennis since 1881.*

We are lay people who are called to deepen our spirituality by walking in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis embodied simplicity, joy, gentleness and three great loves: love of Jesus, love of neighbour and love of nature. He also had a great hunger for justice and peace. He was moved to establish a way of life for lay people who wanted to follow gospel values closely while remaining in the secular world.

We gather every month to pray together, to talk to each other about our efforts in building up the Kingdom, and to nourish our understanding of the Franciscan approach to life.

Our promise is to be guided by the gospel in all our dealings with family and friends, to spread the good news by example, to keep our lives simple and to grow in our awareness of our place and role in God's magnificent creation.

## Franciscan Ideals

*Like St. Francis we seek to reach out to each other and to live in peace and harmony with all of creation.*

### Justice

We strive to develop the gospel life by outreach to the sick and housebound within our Secular Franciscan community and by offering support to those in the wider community through our prayer and presence.



### Creation

In the spirit of St. Francis we recognise the breath of God in every created thing. We learn to find in every creature a gift of the Father and in every event, the gift of his love.



### Peace

Each month we gather in the Poor Clare chapel to pray for peace in the presence of the risen Lord through exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a time of silent reflection, beginning and ending with guided prayer.

