

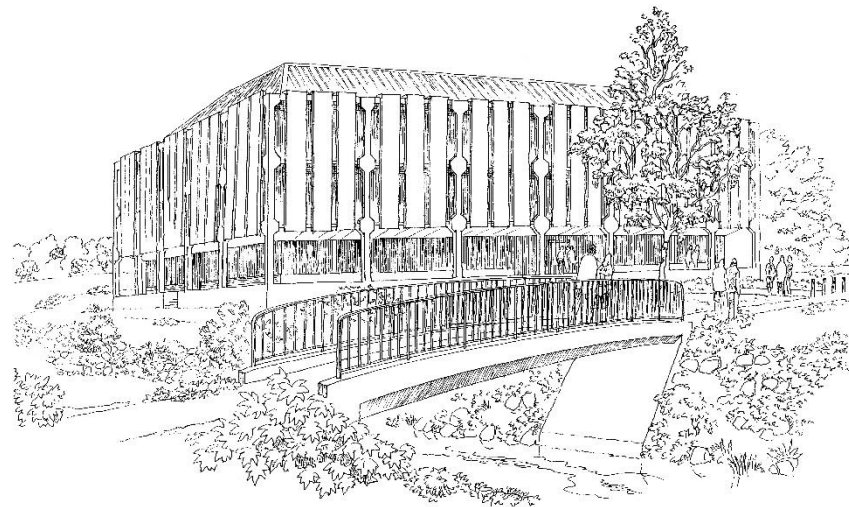
Chapter V

Certificate and Diploma Course

Programmes

in the

Faculty of Theology



Pope John Paul II Library

Higher Diploma in Theological Studies

Programme Co-ordinator: Prof. Séamus O'Connell

This one-year, evening/weekend, Level 8, 60 ECTS credits programme gives a foundation in theological studies to students who hold a primary degree in another discipline. The *Higher Diploma in Theological Studies* meets all the requirements of the *Teaching Council of Ireland* for the teaching of Religious Studies at post-primary level. It entitles teachers holding degrees recognised by the Department of Education in the Republic of Ireland, as well as those holding teacher training qualifications, to teach *Religious Education* for up to 15 hours per week in a secondary school.

The *Higher Diploma in Theological Studies* from St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth attests to the completion of a substantial and coherent programme of learning. The Higher Diploma allows students to finish an accredited introductory programme in theology and to obtain a credential for it. The programme may, in due course, qualify other students to apply for Masters programmes in Theology or Pastoral Ministry, either at the Pontifical University or elsewhere.* The programme may also be of interest and value to those who seek a structured approach to reflecting in a theological key upon the significant questions of life, to those who looking to delve more deeply into the theological thrust and existential demands of the Catholic tradition, or to adults who wish to embrace greater responsibility, or take a more active role in their local church community.

St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth is proud to have the largest faculty of Catholic theology in Great Britain and Ireland. A full range of theological and religious studies courses are offered in the programme; they include:

- A general introduction to theology, giving students the necessary foundations for an academic treatment of theology in accordance with St Anselm's maxim of "faith seeking understanding."
- An introduction to the study of the Bible, which—through the study of particular Old Testament and New Testament books—will explore the nature and significance of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, the origins of the Bible, its literary forms, as well as its interpretation today.
- Systematic Theology, which studies the meaning and implications of the principal faith-affirmations of Christianity concerning God, Jesus, the Church, the human condition.
- Moral Theology, which deals with the experience of morality and in particular with the bearing of Christian faith on the moral and ethical living. Specific themes include: conscience, making moral decisions, the Bible and morality, bioethics, justice, morality and law, ethics in public life, peace and war, and ecology.
- The History of Christianity from the perspectives of both its origins and contemporary experience.

- World Religions, which examines major world religions both in their own terms and their relationship to Christianity, paying particular attention to human dignity and religious freedom.
- Secular belief systems and how Christianity engages with their challenges and legitimate questions.
- Foundations in Religious Education, which provides students with an introduction to the meaning, tradition and contemporary practice of religious education with a particular focus both on the teaching of Religious Education at post-primary level, with particular—but not exclusive—reference to Catholic Education.
- Foundations of Worship, which provide the student with critical skills in exploring the nature and history of Christian Liturgy.
- The Philosophy of Religion which studies the philosophical debate concerning the existence and nature of God. It also considers the interplay between reason, science and religion.

Admission Requirements

- A primary degree or its equivalent is required. Consideration will be given to all applications;
- Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements. See here for more information: <https://sppu.ie/english-language-requirements>;
- As this course is delivered in a hybrid manner with much of the content being given on-line, students are required to have basic academic computer skills and have access to a computer and the internet;
- St Patrick's Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a *Recognised Prior Learning* (RPL) and *Prior Experiential Learning* (RPEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website.

Timetable

- Online classes every Wednesday evening during semester from 6.30–9.30 p.m.
and
- Six on-campus weekend residentials (*Friday 6pm /Saturday 5pm*) in the course of the academic year; three in first semester, and three in second semester.

Programme of Study

Course Code	Title	Lecturer(s)	Semester	Credits
Systematic Theology				
ST 403	The Church and its Sacraments	Surlis	1	5
ST405	Reason Faith and Revelation	Furnal	1	5
ST406	Grace and Anthropology	Meszaros, J.	2	2.5
ST 404	Understanding Jesus Today	Doyle	2	5
Moral Theology				
MR405	Introduction to Moral Theology	Winright	1	2.5
MR 403	Catholic Social Teaching	Corkery	2	5
Sacred Scripture				
SC 400	The Bible and Its Worlds	O'Connell	1	5
SC 401	The Old Testament: Moses, David, Isaiah, and Beyond	Corley	1	5
SC 403	The New Testament: Searching for the Fine Pearls	Macnamara	2	5
General Courses				
LI 400	Foundations of Worship	O'Kane	2	5
TS 114	Philosophy of Religion and Secular Thought	Kerr	2	2.5
TS 111	Introduction to World Religions	Grishin	2	5
TS 112	Church History	Ryan	1	2.5
Elective				
MR 404	The Catholic Moral Tradition and Bioethics	Shortall	1	5
OR				
TS 109	Foundations of Religious Education	Sheridan	1	5

*Students considering application to a Masters programme are advised to explore and clarify the pertinent admission requirements with the relevant Admissions Office before undertaking the *Higher Diploma in Theological Studies*.

Certificates in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies

Programme Co-ordinator: Rev. Dr John-Paul Sheridan

Introduction

The Certificate and Post-Graduate Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies are offered alongside the Bachelor of Education and Professional Master's in Education (Primary Teaching) awarded by Maynooth University (MU). It is designed to educate teachers in foundational knowledge and equip them with the pedagogical skills necessary for communicating the Catholic faith in primary schools. Offered in collaboration with the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education (Maynooth University), it aims to form teachers capable of responding to the many spiritual and religious opportunities and challenges facing pupils.

The Educational Writings of Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) outline his philosophy on early childhood education, importance of play and activity, and child-centred methodologies. His writings have much in common with the philosophy at the heart of Catholic Education. From the point of view of equipping future teachers for Catholic schools, the following points are of particular relevance.

- The concept of the "unison" between nature and the human person is sprung from one and the same Creator. This is called "inner-connection";
- The recognition of truth begins in the real, visible world in the phenomena of nature, in which the laws of God are to be found, learned, and known as unchangeable.
- In all things, there lives and reigns an eternal law. This law is based on an eternal unity. This unity is God. All things have come from God, and have their origin in the Divine Unity, in God alone.

In line with the prerequisites of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference, the programme presents the foundational disciplines of Catholic theology and models and practices of religious education that can enable teachers to teach in a child-centred, developmentally appropriate manner, while exploring the teacher's own Catholic identity, while respecting the diverse religious experience of contemporary society. Catholic schools in many jurisdictions, including Northern Ireland, the Great Britain and Australia, require an equivalent of this Certificate.

Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies

The *Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies* is offered alongside and in collaboration the *Bachelor of Education (Primary)* awarded by the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University.

It is designed to educate teachers in foundational knowledge and equip them with the pedagogical skills necessary for communicating the Catholic faith in primary schools. It aims to form teachers capable of responding to the many spiritual and religious opportunities and challenges facing pupils.

In line with the prerequisites of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference, the programme presents the foundational disciplines of Catholic theology and models and practices of religious education that can enable teachers to teach in a child-centred, developmentally appropriate manner, while exploring the teacher's own Catholic identity, while respecting the diverse religious experience of contemporary society. Catholic schools in many jurisdictions, including Northern Ireland, the Great Britain and Australia, require an equivalent of this Certificate.

Programme Components

Bachelor of Education

Within the Bachelor of Education itself, Religious Education has parity of standing and esteem with other core subjects. Acknowledging the central role of Religious Education for the benefit of the child, and in the Irish Curriculum, they consider the underpinnings, philosophies and approaches to Religious Education from different perspectives, including catechetical, pedagogical, programmatic, inter-religious and inter-denominational, and the contemporary debate on Religious Education.

Certificate in Religious Education

(A) Religious Education: The Certificate wishes to concretely equip future teachers for Catholic schools. Further modules in Religious Education are offered within the Certificate in order to deepen the faith-formative requirements of teacher education. The modules are designed to allow students internalise the richness of Catholic traditions and theologies of education, deepen their own vocational identity as Catholic teachers, and equip them to become confident and competent religious educators in Catholic schools and communities. They will directly and comprehensively address the skills, experiences, and resources required to deliver an Irish Catholic Religious Education Programme.

(B) Theology: An additional distinctive element of the Certificate is that it draws on the experience, expertise and resources of the Faculty of Theology, St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. Design of the theological components took into account the

programme learning outcomes, the requirements of the Irish Episcopal Conference, the structure of the Bachelor of Education, the Primary School Religious Education Curriculum and the integrity of the tapestry of theology itself.

Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies			
Code	Module	Hours	Year
RE101	Christian Belief: Faith, Creed and Trinity	20	1
RE102	Sacred Scripture I (New Testament)	10	2
RE103	Sacred Scripture II (The Old Testament)	10	3
RE104	Christian Morality I (Foundations)	10	3
RE105	Christian Morality II (Living in Right Relationships)	10	4
RE106	The Church at Prayer	20	4
RE107	Introduction to Religious Education and Catechesis	12	1
RE108	Religious Education Applied (Junior Classes)	10	2
RE109	Religious Education Applied (Senior Classes)	10	3
RE110/EDF 135	Educational Foundations of Religious Education I	20	1
RE111/EDF 236	Educational Foundations of Religious Education II	20	2

Admission Requirements

Applicants must be undertaking a *Bachelor of Education* at the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

Programme of Study

On successful completion of the programme, a graduate should be able to:

<i>Knowledge</i>	<p>Demonstrate relevant knowledge of Catholic theology and practice.</p> <p>Exhibit an awareness of the theological and pedagogical foundations of Religious Education at primary level</p> <p>Recognise important issues in relation to contemporary education in the Catholic school sector.</p> <p>Demonstrate an awareness of the religious experience in the church community and wider culture.</p>
<i>Skill</i>	<p>Explore relevant insights of Catholic theology, practice and religious education.</p> <p>Develop lesson plans appropriate to the developmental level of children and in line with the proposed curriculum.</p> <p>Compose ritual and prayer-service for the classroom and the school community, consistent with the Catholic tradition.</p>

	Employ practices that develop personal and professional development.
<i>Competence</i>	Capable of grasping the unity Catholic theology, practice, and religious education. Apply the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver a religious education curriculum. Evaluate, promote, and challenge if necessary, pedagogical and school practices, from the perspective of the Catholic tradition. Act as a self-motivated and reflective practitioner.

Module Descriptors

Christian Belief: Faith, Creed and Trinity

To introduce students to foundational themes in theology and their connections. Themes include: anthropology and Christology, revelation and faith, Scripture and Tradition, and the significance of a Trinitarian understanding of God.

Sacred Scripture (I)

Through extended engagement with the Gospel of Luke, this module will permit the student to come to a first-hand knowledge of New Testament and its core texts, motifs and contexts. This first-hand knowledge will, in turn, provide the foundation for an active engagement with key gospel passages which lie at teacher's handing on of the faith.

Sacred Scripture (II)

Building upon the foundation of the New Testament module, this module will introduce key characters in and for the journey of faith, with a particular focus on key foundational narratives—the creation of humanity, the call of Abraham, the exodus from Egypt, and the anointing of David.

Christian Morality (I)

To introduce students to dynamic of Christian moral reflection and action. It aims to facilitate students explore the specific features of Christian morality, identify the primary principles moving moral discourse, and employ a Christian perspective in deliberation towards action. By relating morality to the mature integration of the person, the course will draw out specific connections to the moral and spiritual development of the child.

Christian Morality (II)

The Christian life has often been described as a call to live in right relationships – with self, others and creation. This module will explore this aspect of Christian discipleship with particular reference to issues of justice [interpersonal and societal], human stewardship and Christian witness in society.

The Church at Prayer

The aim of this module is to introduce the participants to an understanding of the role, meaning and function of sacramental and liturgical celebrations in Christianity and especially in the Catholic Church. Beginning with the core theological category of the worshipping community as the Church, the module will explore how the Church is made manifest in its liturgical activity.

Introduction to Religious Education and Catechesis

This module is in three parts: To introduce the student to the foundation and aims of religious education in the Catholic Church as prescribed in the *General Directory for Catechesis*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *Catechesi Tradendae* and other pertinent documents of the Catholic Church, both universal and local. To introduce the student to an understanding of catechesis, as it is found in Church documents and as it is understood in the Catholic Church.

Religious Education (Applied) Junior Classes

The emphasis of the module is a practical introduction to the programme, with an emphasis on theory application and skills training. This module will prepare the student to teach Religious Education and Catechesis in a Catholic primary school. It will introduce the students to the *Grow in Love* programme as taught in the first four years of primary school.

Religious Education (Applied) Senior Classes

The emphasis of the module is a practical introduction to the programme, with an emphasis on theory application and skills training. This module will prepare the student to teach Religious Education and Catechesis in a Catholic primary school. The module will introduce the students to the *Alive-O* and *Grow in Love* programmes as taught in the 3rd – 6th classes in primary school.

Educational Foundations of Religious Education I

See *Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education*

Diversity and Dialogue in Religious Education II

See *Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education*

Post-Graduate Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies

The *Post-Graduate Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies* is offered alongside and in collaboration with the *Professional Master's in Education (Primary)* awarded by the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University.

It is designed to inform student teachers of foundational knowledge and furnish them with the pedagogical skills necessary for transmitting the Catholic tradition in primary schools of a Catholic Ethos, and aims to form teachers capable of responding to the many spiritual and religious opportunities and challenges facing pupils.

The programme meets the prerequisites of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference in offering foundational disciplines of Catholic theology and models and practices of religious education. It is devised to enable teachers to teach in a child-centred, developmentally appropriate manner, while exploring the teacher's own Catholic identity and the diverse contemporary religious experience. Catholic schools in many jurisdictions, including Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Australia, require an equivalent of this Certificate.

Programme Components

Professional Masters of Education

Within the Professional Masters of Education itself, Religious Education has parity of standing and esteem with other core subjects. Acknowledging the central role of Religious Education for the benefit of the child, and in the Irish Curriculum, they consider the underpinnings, philosophies, and approaches to Religious Education from different perspectives, including catechetical, pedagogical, programmatic, inter-religious and inter-denominational, and the contemporary debate on Religious Education.

Certificate in Religious Education

(A) Religious Education: The Certificate wishes to concretely equip future teachers for Catholic schools. Further modules in Religious Education are offered within the Certificate in order to deepen the faith-formative requirements of teacher education. The modules are designed to allow students internalise the richness of Catholic traditions and theologies of education, deepen their own vocational identity as Catholic teachers, and equip them to become confident and competent religious educators in Catholic schools and communities. They will directly and comprehensively address the skills, experiences, and resources required to deliver an Irish Catholic Religious Education Programme.

(B) Theology: An additional distinctive element of the Certificate is that it draws on the experience, expertise and resources of the Faculty of Theology, St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. Design of the theological components took into account the programme learning outcomes, the requirements of the Irish Episcopal Conference, the structure of the Master's in Education, the Primary School Religious Education Curriculum and the integrity of the tapestry of theology itself.

The grid summarises the course in terms of the module titles, the required assessment, the contact hours, credits awarded for each module and the year within which the students will be required to undertake the modules.

Post-Graduate Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies			
Code	Module	Hours	Year
RE 401	Introduction to Religious Education, Catechesis and Liturgy	20	1
RE 402	Christian Belief	10	1
RE 403	Christian Scripture/Morality	20	2
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RE 404/ EDF607	Foundations of Religious Education	20	1
RE 405/ EDF 626	Religious Education - World Religions, Ecumenism, and Inter-Faith Dialogue	20	2

Admission Requirements

Applicants must be undertaking a *Professional Masters in Education (Primary)* at the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

Programme of Study

On successful completion of the programme, a graduate should be able to:

<i>Knowledge</i>	<p>Relate relevant knowledge of Catholic theology and practice</p> <p>Recognise the theological and pedagogical foundations of RE at primary level</p> <p>Identify significant issues in the Catholic school sector, with regard to education</p> <p>Exhibit an awareness of the religious experiences of an ecclesial community and wider culture.</p>
<i>Skill</i>	<p>Explore the insights of Catholic theology and practice.</p> <p>Compile lesson plans appropriate to the developmental level of children and in line with the proposed curriculum</p> <p>Construct classroom and school community rituals and prayer-service, consistent with the Catholic tradition</p> <p>Apply practices required for personal and professional development.</p>
<i>Competence</i>	<p>Capable of synthesising Catholic theology and religious education</p>

Employ the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver a religious education curriculum
Consider, and critique if necessary, pedagogical and school practices, from the perspective of the Catholic tradition
Act as a self-motivated and reflective practitioner.

Module Descriptors

Christian Belief

To introduce students to foundational themes in theology and their connections. Themes include: Anthropology and Christology, Revelation and Faith, Scripture and Tradition, and the significance of a Trinitarian understanding of God.

Introduction to Religious Education, Catechesis and Liturgy

To introduce the students to the philosophy, aims and objectives of the Catholic school and to the foundation and aims of religious education and catechesis as it is understood in the Catholic Church, based on the Conciliar and post-Conciliar documents. To introduce the students to the philosophy, aims, methodologies and content of the Irish Catechetical Programmes. To introduce the students to an understanding of Sacramentality and liturgy, and in particular the place of liturgy and ritual in religious education and catechesis. To acquaint the students with the sacramental preparation of pupils for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

And God saw that it was very good! *Introduction to Sacred Scripture and Christian Ethics*

This module sets out to explore the Christian vision of the human person and how a person (one) might read, interpret, and receive the Word of the Living God, within themselves, within the world and within the Bible. Therefore, it seeks to integrate a contemporary view of the human person and a contemporary narrative critical approach to the interpretation of the Bible. To achieve this, the module will explore, from within the Catholic tradition, the Christian vision of the human person, of human life and of the Bible, as the concrete expression of the Word of God.

Educational Foundations of Religious Education

See *Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education*

Religious Education - World Religions, Ecumenism, and Inter-Faith Dialogue

See *Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education*

The Maynooth Centre for Mission and Ministries

The *Maynooth Centre for Mission and Ministries*, located within the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University, exists to advance the participation of the Irish Church in the *Missio Dei* for the 21st Century. It fosters the life and mission of the church by attending to its pastoral practice, liturgical celebration, and reflective heart.

The work of the Centre has a three-fold focus

- practical theology;
- integrated formation, and
- interdisciplinary research.

Its activities are rooted in ongoing scholarship and a creative responsiveness to the ‘signs of the times’ in an evolving landscape. It seeks to be a valuable resource to parishes, pastoral areas, dioceses, religious communities and institutes, and faith-based agencies and organisations.

Rooted in the Catholic tradition and open to the work of the Spirit of God in the world, the Centre recognizes and seeks to support and develop a wide diversity of callings and giftedness among the people of God. It is committed in the first instance to go out to the margins and engage comprehensively with contemporary culture.

The ethos of the Maynooth Centre for Mission and Ministries is transformative, praxis-orientated, co-responsible, contextual, responsive and inclusive, founded on fundamental respect for the whole of creation.

It seeks to model communities of learning, research and liturgy and to empower partner organisations. The Centre is committed to peace-building, right relationships and dialogue with the other in the church and beyond.

The programmes delivered and associated with the centre foster these attitudes and values and are characterised by attention to service, theological reflection, human lived experience and the complex realities of the contemporary church in the world.

Centre for Mission & Ministries
Pontifical University
Saint Patrick’s Pontifical University
Maynooth
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Higher Diploma in Christian Communications and Media Practice

Subject	Media / Theology
Programme Title/Award	<i>Higher Diploma in Christian Communications and Media Practice</i>
NFQ Level	Level 9
Credits (ECTS)	60
Programme Duration	1 Year full time or equivalent part time
Programme Overview	The aim of the <i>Postgraduate Programme</i> is to deliver a comprehensive syllabus of media skills, with specific regard to religious and social affairs. It is designed to equip a student with practical competencies in key areas required for working in a contemporary professional media environment. The programme is structured to engage with religious and social affairs through the medium of the media. To this end, it will offer practical, relevant and expert training in mainstream and new technologies, while attentive to the cultural needs and priorities of religious and social affairs.

Programme Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the programme, the graduate should be able to:

Knowledge

Breath

Demonstrate an analytic knowledge of the constitutive elements of media production

Display a knowledge of theories of communication, including the philosophy, theology, ethics and spirituality of communication

Kind

Engage sensitively and critically with religious and social affairs, by way of the process of media production and theoretical reflection

Identify self-understandings of religious communities and trends with society

Know-How and Skill

Range

Equip students with an industry entry level competence in media technologies, both mainstream and digital
Identify, gather and analyse material from a specified range of sources.

<i>Selectivity themes</i>	<p>Generate mainstream and social media products on specific themes</p> <p>Demonstrate competence in technical and production skills</p> <p>Communicate values and ideas to contemporary audience in a creative and innovative manner</p> <p>Critically reflect on the context of media, their operations and applications</p> <p>Demonstrate a capacity for creative innovation in traditional or contemporary media forms</p>
Competence	
<i>Role</i>	<p>Develop critical evaluation skills in relation to mass media</p> <p>Initiate and complete variety of media productions in a leadership capacity or working collaboratively as part of a team</p>
<i>Learning to learn</i>	<p>Complete learning tasks purposefully, ethically and to professional standards</p> <p>Collaborate effectively within groups in completing projects</p> <p>Show a capacity for reflective practice</p>
<i>Insight</i>	<p>Value the subjects at the centre of media production</p> <p>Articulate the ways in which theory and practice may be integrated</p> <p>Critically appraise practices and identities of religions and society</p> <p>Critically appraise media representations and practice from the point of view of ethics, professional practice and the law.</p>

Admission Requirements

A 2.2 in a primary degree or equivalence.

Articulation with other Programmes/Progression Opportunities

On completion, students may progress to Level 9 programmes on the National Qualifications Framework. QQI validation also allows for recognition in Europe and beyond.

Diploma in Pastoral Theology

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Aoife McGrath

This is a level 7, introductory programme for someone preparing for ministry leadership in the Church. It forms part of a person's initial formation, preparing him/her for exercising the responsibilities of ministry, especially leadership in public prayer, pastoral care and spiritual accompaniment, and building and strengthening community. This includes acquiring specialised skills to teach in diverse settings, provide effective catechetical and faith formation, and exercise responsible stewardship of parish personnel and resources.

This level allows students to develop a specialised knowledge of theological principles as these relate to ministry practice. Students form an ability to integrate their learning from academic study and placement experiences in parish, school, and hospital settings, in order to establish a sense of ministerial identity and exercise appropriate judgment in ministry leadership.

The programme further prepares students to:

- exercise appropriate judgment in planning;
- take responsibility for forming a habit of reflective practice for ministry;
- express an internalised personal worldview, achieving self-awareness as this relates to pastoral ministry;
- interact effectively in a peer-support group setting;
- identify and analyse different ministerial approaches and pastoral responses, to exercise appropriate ministry practice in a variety of contexts.

This Diploma follows the same academic and placement schedules as the Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology, and is awarded on the successful completion of one year's full-time or two year's part-time engagement.

Admission Requirements

Candidates who have experience in parish-based or other pastoral ministry but do not hold a primary degree may be considered for entry. They may be required to take courses in theology to qualify for admission.

Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement.

Successful individual and group interviews are an essential part of the selection process.

St Patrick's Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) and Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website.

Programme of Study*

The structure of the Diploma programme reflects an equal weighting of importance between the academic learning (50%) and pastoral practice (50%). The core modules in the programme are:

PT430: Pastoral Practice	30 ECTS
PT431: Prayer Leadership	7.5 ECTS
PT432: Caring and Spiritual Accompaniment	5 ECTS
PT435: Organisational Leadership in Ministry Contexts	5 ECTS
PT434: Theology and Pastoral Ministry	7.5 ECTS
PT437: Healthcare Chaplaincy: Ministry of Presence and Visitation	2.5 ECTS
PT438: Educational Chaplaincy: Ministry of Catechesis and Faith Formation	2.5 ECTS

**This programme is subject to revision. Students will be informed of any changes prior to beginning the programme.*

Learning Ethos

This Diploma programme places a strong emphasis on participative learning. At a personal level, the course addresses the integration of academic and practice-based learning, with a focus on growth in self-understanding as well as personal, relational, and spiritual development. Course work includes group sessions, lectures, presentations, and interactive seminars. While classes are normally on Thursday and Friday of each week, students may be required to attend courses and seminars that are only available outside these times.

Pastoral Practice

Students commit to a placement education experience in a 'Teaching Parish', or equivalent context, from September to April. The basic areas of ministerial practice within the placement site are typically primary-level catechesis, second-level chaplaincy and/or catechesis, and parish/community based ministry.

One Year, Full-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week, for an average of 10-12 hours of contact time per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday and Friday. Students will also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 16-18 hours per week.

Two Year, Part-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week in the two academic years, for an average of 5-6 hours of contact time per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday (in Year One) and on Friday (in Year Two). Students will also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 8-9 hours per week.

Placement education sites, or 'Teaching Parishes', are arranged in collaboration with the PT430 Pastoral Practice Module Leader. The Pastoral Practice module includes the following: mentoring support with an on-site Placement Contact Person, or his/her Designated Alternate; pastoral supervision/one-to-one consultation with an assigned staff mentor in the Pontifical University; two visits by an assigned Placement Supervisor; participation in weekly small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions; and, an end-of-year integration day. The placement education experience is a central context for learning and growth, and is fundamental for the overall pastoral formation of the students.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Students will undertake a second placement through one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) or its equivalent (12 weeks). CPE is a professional education for ministry conducted in the hospital setting. The course includes development of self-understanding and the foundation for the practice of pastoral care. CPE is a supervised course, which students apply for independently and take after completion of the core modules and parish placement. CPE is a qualifying course for the completion of the Diploma programme, and the CPE placement site is arranged in collaboration with the Pastoral Theology Programme Co-ordinator.

Assessment

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations, and written assignments as outlined within the module descriptors. The two primary processes of assessment for the Pastoral Practice module will be as follows: placement supervised visits (two in total) and a pastoral practice portfolio. Students need to pass all components of assessments in order to pass the respective module.

Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Aoife McGrath

This level 8 programme forms part of a person's initial formation for ministry leadership in the Church, preparing him/her to minister effectively in a peer relationship with other pastoral ministers, and use advanced skills in professional ministry, especially leadership in public prayer, pastoral care and spiritual accompaniment, and building and strengthening community. This includes using and transforming advanced skills and tools to teach in diverse settings, provide effective catechetical and faith formation, and exercise responsible stewardship of parish personnel and resources.

This level allows students to develop a detailed knowledge of theological principles as these relate to ministry practice, and an understanding of concepts, methods, and models pertaining to ways of doing theology in practice. It enables students to develop the ability to act in variable contexts, to be flexible in response to the needs of a community, and a diversity of situations and people, to go beyond their comfort zone, and act effectively within a changing ministerial landscape.

The programme further enables students to:

- exercise appropriate judgment in complex planning, leading groups, and managing resources;
- take responsibility for forming a habit of reflective practice for ministry;
- express a comprehensive, internalised, personal worldview, achieving self-awareness and critical reflection as these relate to pastoral ministry;
- face the demands of making collaborative ministry work;
- exercise initiative and independent thought, to interact intelligently, empathically, ethically, and professionally within their ministerial context;
- differentiate appropriate ministerial approaches, and to formulate pastoral responses to complex situations in pastoral contexts.

This Higher Diploma follows the same academic and placement schedules as the Diploma in Pastoral Theology and is awarded on the successful completion of one year's full-time or two year's part-time engagement.

Admission Requirements

Candidates are required to have a recognised degree qualification where theology is at least a major component. Candidates with other degrees may be admitted if they have experience in pastoral ministry. However, these will be required to take courses in theology to qualify for admission.

Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement.

Successful individual and group interviews are an essential part of the selection process. St Patrick's Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) and Prior Experiential Learning (PEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website.

Programme of Study*

The structure of the Higher Diploma programme reflects an equal weighting of importance between the academic learning (50%) and pastoral practice (50%). The core modules in the programme are:

PT430: Pastoral Practice	30 ECTS
PT431: Prayer Leadership	7.5 ECTS
PT432: Caring and Spiritual Accompaniment	5 ECTS
PT435: Organisational Leadership in Ministry Contexts	5 ECTS
PT434: Theology and Pastoral Ministry	7.5 ECTS
PT437: Healthcare Chaplaincy: Ministry of Presence and Visitation	2.5 ECTS
PT438: Educational Chaplaincy: Ministry of Catechesis and Faith Formation	2.5 ECTS

**This programme is subject to revision. Students will be informed of any changes prior to beginning the programme.*

Learning Ethos

This Higher Diploma programme places a strong emphasis on participative learning. At a personal level, the course addresses the integration of academic and practice-based learning, with a focus on growth in self-understanding as well as personal, relational, and spiritual development. Course work includes group sessions, lectures, presentations, and interactive seminars. While classes are normally on Thursday and Friday of each week, students may be required to attend courses and seminars that are only available outside these times.

Pastoral Practice

Students commit to a placement education experience in a 'Teaching Parish', or equivalent context, from September to April. The basic areas of ministerial practice within the placement site are typically primary-level catechesis, second-level chaplaincy and/or catechesis, and parish/community based ministry.

One Year, Full-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week, for an average of 19 hours of contact time per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday and Friday. Students will also be required to

participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 22-25 hours per week.

Two Year, Part-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week in the two academic years, for an average of 9.5 hours of contact time per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday (in Year One) and on Friday (in Year Two). Students will also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 11-12.5 hours per week.

Placement education sites, or 'Teaching Parishes', are arranged in collaboration with the PT430 Pastoral Practice Module Leader. The Pastoral Practice module includes the following: mentoring support with an on-site Placement Contact Person, or his/her Designated Alternate; pastoral supervision/one-to-one consultation with an assigned staff mentor in the Pontifical University; two visits by an assigned Placement Supervisor; participation in weekly small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions; and, an end-of-year integration day. The placement education experience is a central context for learning and growth, and is fundamental for the overall pastoral formation of the students.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Students will undertake a second placement through one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) or its equivalent (12 weeks). CPE is a professional education for ministry conducted in the hospital setting. The course includes development of self-understanding and the foundation for the practice of pastoral care. CPE is a supervised course, which students apply for independently and take after completion of the core modules and parish placement. CPE is a qualifying course for the completion of the Higher Diploma programme, and the CPE placement site is arranged in collaboration with the Pastoral Theology programme co-ordinator.

Assessment

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations, and written assignments as outlined within the module descriptors. The two primary processes of assessment for the Pastoral Practice module will be as follows: placement supervised visits (two in total) and a pastoral practice portfolio. Students need to pass all components of assessments in order to pass the respective module.

Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology (Healthcare Chaplaincy)

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Aoife McGrath

This level 8 programme forms part of a person's initial formation for chaplaincy leadership in a healthcare setting, preparing him/her to minister effectively in collaboration with multi-disciplinary healthcare colleagues in the provision of holistic healthcare in public, voluntary, and private healthcare facilities. It prepares students to use advanced skills in professional caring ministry, especially leadership in prayer, pastoral care, and accompaniment with persons who suffer because of illness, trauma, tragedy, grief, and bereavement.

This level allows students to develop a detailed knowledge of theological principles as these relate to ministry practice, and an understanding of concepts, methods, and models pertaining to ways of doing theology in practice. It enables students to develop the ability to act in variable contexts, to be flexible in response to the needs of persons who are unwell, terminally ill or actively dying, to their family members and loved ones, and to professional colleagues who are deeply impacted by health-related conditions and experiences. Students encounter a diversity of situations and people, go beyond their comfort zone, and learn to minister compassionately and sensitively, providing comforting outreach, sacramental care, facilitating the celebration of liturgy, public worship, and spiritual practices as appropriate within a challenging healthcare landscape.

The programme further enables students to:

- exercise appropriate judgment in complex situations, advocate for the persons in their care, and manage crisis in the practice of pastoral care;
- take responsibility for forming a habit of reflective practice for ministry;
- express a comprehensive, internalised, personal worldview, achieving self-awareness and critical reflection as these relate to pastoral ministry;
- face the demands of making collaborative ministry work and actively participate in the creation and maintenance of a healthy work environment;
- exercise initiative and independent thought, to interact intelligently, empathically, ethically, and professionally within their ministerial context;
- differentiate appropriate ministerial approaches within complex institutional cultures and systems, in response to varying group dynamics and organisational behaviour.

This Higher Diploma follows the same academic and placement schedules as the Diploma and Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology, and is awarded on the successful completion of one year's full-time or two year's part-time engagement.

Admission Requirements

Candidates are required to have a recognised degree qualification where theology is at least a major component. Candidates with other degrees may be admitted if they have experience in pastoral ministry. However, these will be required to take courses in theology to qualify for admission.

Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement.

Successful individual and group interviews are an essential part of the selection process. St Patrick's Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) and Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website.

Candidates who are interested in part-time engagement must indicate this preference at application stage.

Programme of Study*

The structure of the Diploma programme reflects an equal weighting of importance between the academic learning (50%) and pastoral practice (50%). The core modules in the programme are:

PT430: Pastoral Practice	30 ECTS
PT431: Prayer Leadership	7.5 ECTS
PT432: Caring and Spiritual Accompaniment	5 ECTS
PT435: Organisational Leadership in Ministry Contexts	5 ECTS
PT434: Theology and Pastoral Ministry	7.5 ECTS
PT436: Healthcare Chaplaincy: Leadership Ministry of Healing and Justice	5 ECTS

**This programme is subject to revision. Students will be informed of any changes prior to beginning the programme.*

Learning Ethos

This Higher Diploma programme places a strong emphasis on participative learning. At a personal level, the course addresses the integration of academic and practice-based learning, with a focus on growth in self-understanding as well as personal, relational, and spiritual development. Course work includes group sessions, lectures, presentations, and interactive seminars. While classes are normally on Thursday and Friday of each week, students may be required to attend courses and seminars that are only available outside these times.

Pastoral Practice

Students commit to a placement education experience, or internship, in a ‘Teaching Hospital,’ from September to April. The basic areas of ministerial practice within the acute general placement site are typically as follows: Integrated pastoral care ministry serving patients and their families, within a clinical environment including critical and emergency care; leading or participating in hospital liturgies and services in the chapel, mortuary, ward, or bedside; and, professional relationship building and pastoral care of staff, strengthening the pastoral care department.

One Year, Full-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week, for an average of 19 hours per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday and Friday. Students will also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 22-25 hours per week.

Two Year, Part-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week in the two academic years, for an average of 9.5 hours per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday (in Year One) and on Friday (in Year Two). Students will also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 11-12.5 hours per week. *Part-time places are limited, conditional on the availability of part-time internships at Teaching Hospitals.*

Placement education sites, or ‘Teaching Hospitals’, are assigned to the student by the PT430 Pastoral Practice Module Leader, who is working in collaboration with the Teaching Hospitals. The Pastoral Practice module includes the following: mentoring support with an on-site Placement Contact Person (the Director of Pastoral Care/Head Chaplain) or his/her Designated Alternate; pastoral supervision/one-to-one consultation with an assigned staff mentor in the Pontifical University; two visits by an assigned Placement Supervisor; participation in weekly small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions; and, an end-of-year integration day. The placement education experience is a central context for learning and growth, and is fundamental for the overall pastoral formation of the students.

Summer Intensive Placement in Clinical Setting

At the end of the academic year, students will undertake a second placement in a clinical setting consisting of 350 hours of clinical practice. Assigned clinical areas may include critical care: intensive care unit, trauma care, stroke care, emergency department, oncology, and haematology care. Small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions will take place at the placement site, facilitating a deepening of the student’s reflective practice.

One Year, Full-Time students: The placement will consist of 10 weeks of placement, with 35 hours of clinical practice each week. The placement will include 3 night's rostered work and 3 rostered weekends.

Two Year, Part-Time students: The placement will consist of 17.5 hours of placement over 10 weeks in each summer. This placement will include rostered night-duty and weekend work.

A Summer School will take place in Maynooth over 3 Saturdays, covering areas such as: understanding and managing oneself, leading and managing others, leading change, leadership and management skills for the future, developing a culture of research and development in best practice, and the integration of learning in preparation for Certification as Catholic Healthcare Chaplains. Part-Time students can undertake this summer school in Year One or Year Two.

This Summer Intensive Placement is a qualifier for the completion of the Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology (Healthcare Chaplaincy) programme, and is a prerequisite for satisfying the certification standards for the Catholic Healthcare Chaplaincy Board.

Assessment

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations, and written assignments as outlined within the module descriptors. The two primary processes of assessment for the Pastoral Practice module will be as follows: placement supervised visits (two in total) and a pastoral practice portfolio. Students need to pass all components of assessments in order to pass the respective module.

Diploma in Diaconate Studies

Programme Coordinator: Rev. Brian Kavanagh, JCL, MSc.

The *Diploma in Diaconal Studies* is a 90 ECT (level 7) part-time hybrid programme over three years. The aims and learning outcomes of the programme are those already agreed with the National Training Authority for the Permanent Diaconate of the Irish Episcopal Conference.

Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

The aims of this programme are:

- To equip future permanent deacons with broad knowledge of the theological content of their faith
- To foster the development of a reflective approach to ministry thereby ensuring a fruitful meeting between faith and contemporary culture
- To deepen awareness and appreciation of the wide variety of the forms of ecclesial ministry, lay and ordained
- To enable candidates to acquire skills and resources that will sustain them throughout their ministry.

By the end of this programme successful candidates will be able to:

- exhibit a foundational knowledge of the doctrines of faith and theology
- demonstrate an ability to read and interpret biblical and ecclesiastical texts
- utilise the skill of theological reflection
- apply research methods appropriate to theology and pastoral ministry
- draw on bibliographical resources, research methods and secondary material responsibly.

Policies and Procedures of this programme are given further specification in the Student Handbook, which are aligned to those of the Pontifical University.

Academic Programme/Curriculum

Note: Only Year Two is running in the 2023 / 24 academic year.

Year One	
Semester 1	
Introduction to Theology	7.5 Credits
The Bible and its Worlds	7.5 Credits

	Semester 2	
Catholic Social Teaching		5 Credits
Foundations of Worship		5 Credits
Pastoral Theology		5 Credits
	Year Two	
	Semester 1	
The Church and its Sacraments	Surlis	5 Credits
The Catholic Moral Tradition and Bioethics	Shortall	5 Credits
The Old Testament	Corley	5 Credits
	Semester 2	
Understanding Jesus Christ Today	Doyle	5 credits
The New Testament	Macnamara	5 credits
Grace and Anthropology	J Meszaros	2.5 Credits
Catechetics	Sheridan	2.5 Credits
	Year Three	
	Semester 1	
Ethics of Love & Family		2.5 Credits
Canon Law 1		5 Credits
Spiritual Theology and Mariology		2.5 Credits
The Christian Communities of John and Paul		5 Credits
	Semester Two	
Church History		5 Credits
Canon Law 2		2.5 Credits
Seven Sacraments		5 Credits
Theology of the Diaconate and the New Evangelisation		2.5 Credits

Please note: the order and nomenclature of these modules might change.

Admission Requirements

Admission on the programme is by way of acceptance by a Roman Catholic Bishop on to a formation programme for the Permanent Diaconate. For further details, see the website: <https://sppu.ie/courses/diploma-in-diaconate-studies>

Higher Diploma in Pastoral Liturgy

Programme Co-ordinator: Rev. Dr. Neil Xavier O'Donoghue

The one-year, Level 8, 60 credit, programme, conducted in conjunction with the National Centre for Liturgy, offers candidates the opportunity to study the worship of the Church, its tradition and its place in the Church today. It aims to provide formation in Liturgy to enable the student to take a leadership role in pastoral work, specialising in Liturgy, at diocesan and parish level.

Admission Requirements

- A primary degree or its equivalent is required. Consideration will be given to all applications.
- Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements. See here for more information: <https://sppu.ie/english-language-requirements>.
- As this course is delivered in a hybrid manner with much of the content being given on-line, students are required to have basic academic computer skills and have access to a computer and the internet.
- St Patrick's Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) and Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website.

Timetable

There are 6 weekend residentials (Friday/Saturday), three each term. Students are expected to be available on every Wednesday evening during term time from 6.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. On Wednesday evenings content will be delivered “live” on an on-line teaching platform. Students can participate from home. Another 3 hours of asynchronous self-directed learning will be provided for each week in term time. Please note that students will be expected to devote additional time to study and working on assignments every week.

Programme of Study

The HDip in Pastoral Liturgy is comprised of the following modules:

Higher Diploma in Pastoral Liturgy				
Module Code	Module title	Lecturer	ECTS	Semester
LI 393	Christian Initiation I: Order of the Christian Initiation of Adults	Clavin	5	1
LI 398	Liturgical Vocabulary: an Introduction to Liturgy	O'Donoghue	5	1
LI 392	The Church's Year: Time, Seasons and Feasts	Baxter	5	1
LI 395	Scripture and Liturgy – Ministers, Proclamation, Books	Fitzgerald	5	1
LI 399	Music in Catholic Liturgy	O'Kane	5	1
ST 403	The Church and its Sacraments	Surlis	5	1
LI 389	Scripture Heard and Proclaimed	O'Mahony	5	2
LI 391	Leading God's People in Public Prayer	Hayden	5	2
LI 394	Christian Initiation II: The Eucharist – Celebration and Theology	McGee	5	2
LI 397	Liturgical Questions – New Directions: Leadership and Implementation	Sheridan	5	2
LI 388	Technology & Catholic Liturgy	Forbes	5	2
LI 387	Journal + Portfolio: Liturgical Critique	O'Donoghue	5	Yearlong

Diploma in Pastoral Liturgy

Programme Co-ordinator: Rev. Dr. Neil Xavier O'Donoghue

The one-year, Level 7, 60 credit, programme, conducted in conjunction with the National Centre for Liturgy, offers candidates the opportunity to study the worship of the Church, its tradition and its place in the Church today. It aims to provide formation in Liturgy to enable the student to take a leadership role in pastoral work, specialising in Liturgy, at diocesan and parish level.

Admission Requirements

- A basic academic qualification at second level, or its equivalent is required. Consideration will be given to all applications.
- Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements. See here for more information: <https://sppu.ie/english-language-requirements>;
- As this course is delivered in a hybrid manner with much of the content being given on-line, students are required to have basic academic computer skills and have access to a computer and the internet.
- St Patrick's Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) and Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website.

Timetable

There are 6 weekend residentials (Friday/Saturday), three each term. Students are expected to be available on every Wednesday evening during term time from 6.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. On Wednesday evenings content will be delivered “live” on an on-line teaching platform. Students can participate from home. Another 3 hours of asynchronous self-directed learning will be provided for each week in term time. Please note that students will be expected to devote additional time to study and working on assignments every week.

Programme of Study

Please note that students of the Dip in Pastoral Liturgy will take the same course as the HDip in Pastoral Liturgy (see above), however they will be assessed at level 7 rather than level 8.

Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality

Programme Co-ordinator: Gerard Gallagher, MTh

This programme in Youth Ministry and Spirituality is designed to be a pathway for someone with sufficient working experience in youth ministry but who does not have a previous degree in theology or youth ministry. Such a candidate may desire to develop their conceptual, theoretical, and practical skills, and to receive a professional qualification in youth ministry.

The programme is also designed for students or graduates of primary degrees in theology who intend to engage in further studies (e.g. Masters in Youth Ministry) but need a preparatory Diploma to have the right methodological and pastoral qualification to engage in research in youth ministry at a post graduate level.

Admission Requirements

Entry requirements for the Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality have been set in order to select potential students who have the proven academic ability to undertake a Level 7 Diploma course.

The admissions policy aims to attract and recruit motivated applicants across the full range of possible access routes. Students may have a background in any academic discipline. The overriding principle upon which admission decisions are based is that applicants should be likely to benefit from and succeed on the course.

Applicants should normally hold Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) from a recognised education institution with a minimum of a pass in five subjects. Applicants without a formal HE qualification or the formal qualification is not at the equivalent academic standard, may be considered if the following conditions apply:

- They are or have been in employment where their employed role is in the area of the course and involves a high level of analysis and critical thinking. If so, such candidates will be required to provide evidence of such employment, its nature and level. This evidence will be considered in an interview and the decision of the panel (see below) will be final.

Candidates who do not have a prior theological qualification may be required to undertake *TH 401 Introduction to Theology* (5ECTS) in semester one and *ST404 Understanding Jesus Christ Today* (5ECTS) in semester two as part of their course of study.

English language requirement: Applicants must have had their secondary education taught and assessed in English, or an IELTS score of 5.5 with a minimum of 5 in the writing component, or another English Language Test recognised by St Patrick’s Pontifical University.

Applicants who have met the minimum entry requirements may be formally interviewed. The purpose of the interview is to determine the suitability of the candidate to undertake and complete the course. The panel will also consider any equivalent or non-standard admission qualifications. In so doing, the panel may require additional evidence from the candidate to support the candidate’s request for consideration for equivalency, such as the nature and level of the work experience.

Note: even if an applicant meets our minimum admission requirements, The University cannot guarantee a place on the course.

St Patrick’s Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) and Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website..

Programme of Study

Course structure

Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality					
Module Code	Module title	Module Coordinator	Status	ECTS	Semester / Year Long
YM107	Pastoral Practice (Placement and Theological Reflection)	Kelly	Core	20	YL
YM101	Professional Youth Ministry in Practice	Hennessey	Core	5	S1
YM102	Salesian Spirituality and Young People	McDonnell	Core	5	S1
YM106	Educational Chaplaincy: Ministry of Catechesis and Faith Formation	Sheridan	Core	5	S1

YM108	Theology and Pastoral Ministry	Cullen	Core	5	YL
YM109	Caring and Spiritual Accompaniment in Community	Rogers	Core	5	YL
YM103	Social Media and Engagement	Forbes	Core	5	S2
YM104	The Word of God and the Salesian Mission in the Contemporary World.	Odia	Core	5	S2
YM105	Mission Outreach – Summer Intensive Placement/Project	Odia	Core	5	Summer Semester
ST405	Reason Faith and Revelation	Furnal	Qual	5	S1
ST404	Understanding Jesus Christ Today	Doyle	Qual	5	S2

Learning Ethos

This Diploma programme places a strong emphasis on participative learning. At a personal level, the course addresses the integration of academic and practice-based learning, with a focus on growth in self-understanding as well as personal, relational, and spiritual development. Course work includes group sessions, lectures, presentations, and interactive seminars. While classes are normally on Thursday and Friday of each week, students may be required to attend courses and seminars that are only available outside these times.

Pastoral Practice

Students commit to a placement education experience during the programme.

One Year, Full-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week, for an average of 10-12 hours of contact time per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday and Friday. Students will also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 16-18 hours per week.

Two Year, Part-Time students: Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week in the two academic years, for an average of 5-6 hours of contact time per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday (in Year One) and on Friday (in Year Two). Students will also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 8-9 hours per week.

Placement education sites are arranged in collaboration with the Programme Co-ordinator and the Pastoral Practice Module Coordinator. The Pastoral Practice module includes the following: mentoring support with an on-site Placement Contact Person, or his/her Designated Alternate; ongoing one-to-one mentoring or Pastoral Supervision; one/two visits by an assigned Placement Supervisor; participation in weekly small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions; and an end-of-year integration day. The placement education experience is a central context for learning and growth, and is fundamental for the overall pastoral formation of the students.

Assessment

The types of assessment students will be asked to undertake will involve a wide variety of assessment tasks, including practice-based practical tasks, written coursework, e-assessments and reflective tasks aimed at enhancing competence and confidence. The assessment tasks will depend on the subject that is being assessed and it will be closely connected to the teaching methodology and the associated learning outcomes. In most cases assessments are designed to not only assess learning but also to help develop, enhance, and improve further lifelong learning and transferable skills, helping with career development and employment opportunities.

Affiliated Programmes

Programmes Co-ordinator: Dr Jessie Rogers

The following programmes are affiliated to the Pontifical University. For further information, please apply to the appropriate programme provider at the address indicated.

1. Certificate in Person Centred Counselling (Marriage & Relationships)

ACCORD Central Office,
Columba Centre,
Maynooth, Co Kildare
TEL: 01-5053112
Website: www.accord.ie

2. Certificate in Marriage Education

ACCORD Central Office,
Columba Centre,
Maynooth, Co Kildare
TEL: 01-5053112
Website: www.accord.ie

3. Certificate in Christian Studies

Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (Church of Ireland)
Rev Terry Mitchell, Diocesan Further Education and Training Officer
Email: furthereducation@corkchurchofireland.com
Email: co.diocese.education@gmail.com Phone: 087 2767562

4. Advanced Diploma in Spirituality (Supervision) / Diploma in Spirituality (Spiritual Direction)

Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality
426 Clontarf Road, Dollymount, Dublin 3.
Website: www.manresa.ie
Tel: +353 1 8331352

5. Diploma in Spirituality (Youth Ministry) – / Certificate in Spirituality (Youth Retreat Facilitation)

Shekinah
Sr Jennifer Perkins (Course Director)
Website: <http://www.shekinah.ie>

6. Certificate / Diploma / Degree in Theology (Adult Education and Pastoral Ministry)

Armagh Diocesan Pastoral Office
Holy Family Parochial House
Hoey's Lane
Dundalk
Co. Louth
A91 K761
Tel: 00353 429351316
Email: milanda@parishandfamily.com

7. Carmelite Studies (Suite of Awards)

Certificate / Diploma in Spirituality (Carmelite Studies)

Certificate / Diploma in Theology (Carmelite Studies)

B.Th. (Carmelite Studies)

M.Th. (Carmelite Studies)

Carmelite Institute of Britain and Ireland

Website: <http://www.cibi.ie>