

Online Learning in Religious Studies

INTRODUCTION

Online Learning in Religious Studies enables participants to acquire the basic knowledge needed by those actively engaged in Catholic education and those who are interested in handing on the faith in their parishes and in their families. This includes catechists, teachers, parish workers, school governors, chaplains, young adults, parents and grandparents.

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?



The course recognises the need for formal theological training for teachers, catechists, school governors and others. In the Diocese of Lancaster, participants following the course include teachers (seeking to obtain the certificate for the first time or following it as a refresher course), parish catechists, school governors, students from the University of Cumbria and the Catholic Teaching Alliance (North). It is only available for those working or living in the Diocese of Lancaster.

Although the course has practical elements, it should not be regarded as a course in 'How to teach' but rather as providing the theological foundation on which practical expertise can be developed. The course content is validated by the Board of Religious Studies of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and is to be completed within a maximum of five years study.

Both within the Diocese in a Catholic school and nationally, the certificate is seen as a very desirable qualification, particularly for school teachers, and an essential one for leadership posts. The course helps school governors to fulfil their responsibilities for the RE curriculum in their schools in an informed way. Why not take a look at '[Lancaster Diocese Online Learning](http://lancasterccrs.lunsvle.co.uk/)' currently at <http://lancasterccrs.lunsvle.co.uk/>

THE COURSE AIMS:

- To provide an opportunity for adults committed to developing their contribution to Catholic education to acquire a basic theological understanding of their faith.
- To proclaim a vision of education as the formation of the whole person, mind, body, heart and soul.
- To enhance understanding of education within the Church as a lifelong process.
- To incorporate an approach which seeks to engage with the cultural realities of society and to encourage dialogue with an understanding of other faiths and denominations.
- To enable teachers, potential teachers and governors in Catholic schools to understand the principles of Catholic education.
- To enable those involved in parish ministries and catechesis to make an informed and harmonious contribution to their chosen field of work.

Course Leader

The course will be led and supported by Christine Smith who also provides student support through personal email, feedback on activities and assignments.

Christine Smith is: Ecclesiastical B Divinity — Ecclesial Service (Hons), BA Applied Theology - Catechesis (Hons), BA Business Studies (Hons), Cert Education, Cert Christian Facilitation, Cert Spiritual Direction. Course Tutor and Online Learning Co-ordinator for the Diocesan Education Service.

The Modules

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The course is modular in structure, with six core and two specialist modules. Modules are individually certificated allowing participants the possibility of taking one or two modules at a time and building up to the full certificate. The online modules allow the participant greater flexibility in study time by enabling access to the modules on any day, at any time convenient.

The participant is expected to complete three core modules and one specialist module in each of the two years of the course.

Successful completion of each module requires ten hours online study time and submission of a 1,500 word assignment. Assignment submission dates are given on an individual basis by the tutor. The online study time is registered by the participant and monitored by the tutor.

Those who are returning to study, require only occasional modules to complete their course, or wish to commence the full course, can do so at any time throughout the academic year.

**2019-2020
Year 1 Students
Course Commences 9 September**

An introductory module guides the participants through the process of the online learning environment.

INTRODUCTORY MODULE:

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding and operation of the various components of the modules and enables the participants to appreciate and experience the sense of the online community and the requirements of the course assessment process.

SPECIALIST MODULE 1:

INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding and appreciation of the essential and fundamental contents, and the structure of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

CORE MODULES:

OLD TESTAMENT:

The purpose of this module is to introduce participants to the writings in the Old Testament in order to help them to recognise God's revelation contained there and its continuing relevance in Christian life today.

NEW TESTAMENT:

The purpose of this module is to familiarise participants with the process through which the New Testament writings came into being and to help them interpret the material presented and understand its significance for the life of a Christian today.

JESUS CHRIST:

The purpose of this module is to deepen participants' awareness of the significance and centrality of the person and work of Jesus Christ in the daily life of the Christian as well as in the worship of the Church.

**2019-2020
Year 2 Students
Course Commences 9 September**

CHURCH:

The purpose of this module is to enable participants to reflect on the nature of the Church and its mission in the world today.

SACRAMENTS:

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding and appreciation of Sacrament in the life of Catholics as a sign of Christ's continuing presence with the Church.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY:

The purpose of this module is to help participants develop the skills of moral decision-making, to examine Christian teaching in its relation to the universal search for what constitutes "human good", and to explore the application of Christian understanding to some contemporary moral issues.

SPECIALIST 2 MODULE:

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding of the teaching of the Church in the Scriptures, Church documents and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in relation to life and contemporary culture.

Fees

APPLICATIONS

An Application Form is included in this booklet (or available online at <http://lancasterccrs.lunsvle.co.uk/> or on request from the Education Centre, see below for details). Applicants should complete the appropriate sections and return the form to the address below as soon as possible to ensure a place on the course.

Full Course

The full course fee is £480.00 for online tuition for all eight modules plus £20.00 CCRS registration fee, therefore Year 1 fees are £260.00 and Year 2 fees are £240.00. Prior to the start of each year's course participants are required to pay the year's fee in full.

Participants are responsible for the payment of their own fees. In recent years almost all teachers have recovered their fees from their school. This is a matter for negotiation between would-be participants and their Headteacher. Catechists may wish to approach their Parish Priest or sponsoring body for financial assistance.

Occasional Modules

Occasional modules are £75.00 each.

Payment

Please ensure that cheques are made payable to "**Lancaster Education Centre**" and sent to The Education Centre, Balmoral Road, LANCASTER, LA1 3BT (Tel: 01524 841190).

For payment by BACS, quoting your full name and 'CCRS', the details are:-

HSBC, 35 Market Street, Lancaster

Sort code: 40-27-02

Account No. 71334212