



"The health of any Church can generally be inferred from the vibrancy of its worship and the reality of its message, and in

both of these regards, the ministry of Readers makes a vital contribution. CITI is delighted to be associated with this exciting new expression of training for those who are called in this important way."

Reverend Dr. Maurice Elliott  
Director, Church of Ireland  
Theological Institute

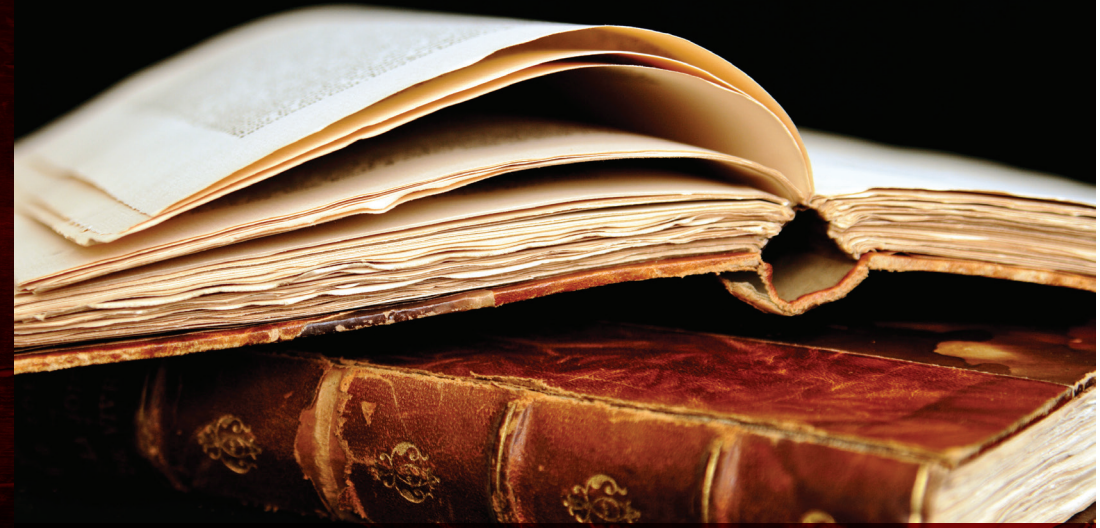


"Diocesan Readers make an invaluable contribution to ministry in the Church of Ireland. Many parishes could not continue to offer weekly worship without the

assistance of such readers who, often at great inconvenience to themselves and in a voluntary capacity, fill gaps when clergy are unable to be present. Readers also bring their own life experience to the conducting of public worship and in particular, the preaching of the Word.

The Readers' Course, undertaken through CITI, is comprehensive and demanding. Those who have been selected for training deserve every support and encouragement."

The Right Reverend Patrick Rooke  
Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry  
& Chair of the Wardens' of Readers



The **Church of Ireland** Theological Institute

For more information contact:

**David Brown**

Lay Training Co-ordinator

Church of Ireland Theological Institute  
Braemor Park, Dublin 14

**Tel:** +353 1 4923506

**Email:** davidbrown@theologicalinstitute.ie

**www.theologicalinstitute.ie**



Readers'  
Course

Spring 2015

# Introduction



Readers are lay people in the Church of Ireland, from all walks of life, who are called by God, theologically trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work.

There are currently over 300 Readers, with men and women represented almost equally. The office of Reader is one of a number of lay ministries within the Church of Ireland which is voluntary. The training course, offered jointly by CITI and St. John's College, Nottingham, is accredited as a Graduate Certificate in Ministry through the University of Durham.



The scope of ministry roles undertaken by Readers differs across the various dioceses. For this reason each diocese also has its own local tutors whose inputs are designed to complement those given centrally.

## Application Process

Selection for Reader Training is handled at a diocesan level. All selection for Reader Training will be done in accordance with the guidelines for Safeguarding Trust. Applicants need to be aware that a Garda/PSNI check will be carried out. Please return the completed application form via your Rector to the Diocesan Warden of Readers.

**NOTE:** If you need more space than the form allows, please feel free to use a separate sheet of paper and send this together with your application.

Details of the cost are available from Diocesan Warden of Readers.

PART 2

Please give a brief account of your own personal pilgrimage of faith to date:

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Please describe briefly your view of the Church of Ireland, its mission and role in society and its relationship to other Christian traditions:

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*I hereby acknowledge that the acceptance of my application and my subsequent completion of the course does not create any obligation on the Church of Ireland or any associated organisations to offer to me a licence to preach.*

Signed: ..... Date: .....

*If you wish to retain information from the previous pages you should photocopy this form.*

# Structure of the Reader's Course Training

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MINISTRY

Module 1 - **Biblical Studies** - March 2015 - October 2015

Module 2 - **Christian Doctrine in Focus** - October 2015 - June 2016

Module 3 - **Theological Perspectives: Christian Ministry** - June 2016 - March 2017

## FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

The other subjects, **Homiletics, Liturgy, Church History** and **Spirituality**, will be delivered through the Day Conferences only and supplemented both locally and via conference calls.

## INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND

27th February - 1st March 2015

## DAY CONFERENCES

6th June 2015

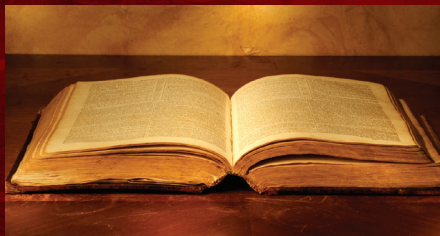
10th October 2015

6th February 2016

11th June 2016

8th October 2016

4th February 2017



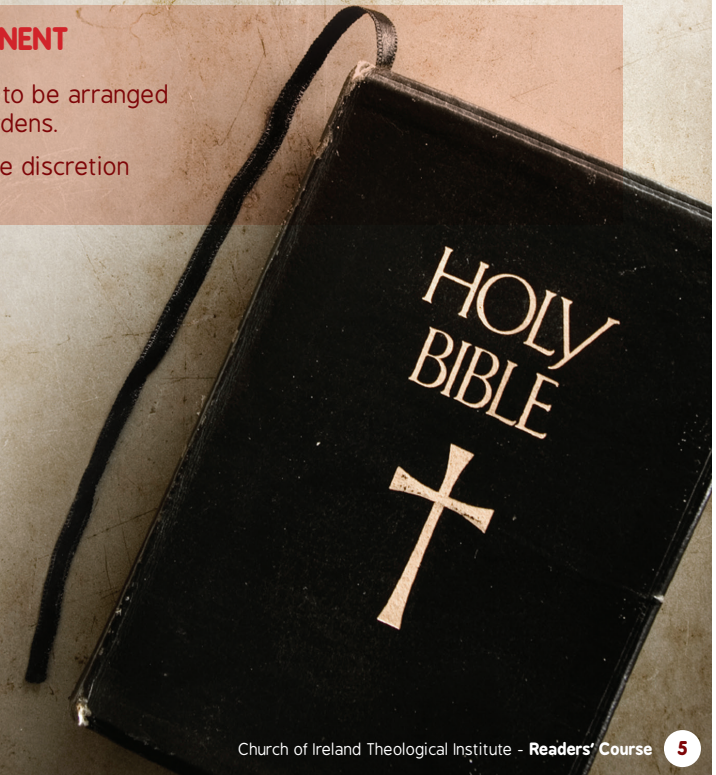
## TEMPLATE FOR THE 6 DAY CONFERENCES:

Timetable	Subjects	Assessed Work
9.30 - 10.30	Spirituality	One piece of reflective writing in each year
11.00 - 12.30	Professional Certificate Teaching related to subjects	Assignments completed through St. John's Nottingham
1.30 - 2.30	Homiletics	Assignments and Practical Work completed through dioceses
2.45 - 3.45	Liturgy	Assignments and Practical Work completed through CITI
4.15 - 5.15	Church History	Assignments and Practical Work completed through CITI
5.30	Chapel	Attendance and Participation
6.00	Dinner	

## DIOCESAN COMPONENT

Monthly tutorial input - to be arranged locally by Diocesan Wardens.

Practical sessions at the discretion of the local diocese.



# Application form

## FOR CANDIDATE READER (DIOCESAN)

PART 1

CHURCH OF IRELAND

DIOCESE OF .....

Full name: .....

Address: .....

Tel: ..... Email: .....

Date of birth: ..... Occupation: .....

When and where confirmed? .....

How often do you receive Holy Communion? .....

Details of education - school(s), college, qualifications, etc: .....

Have you previously made any special study of the Christian faith? .....

Name of the parish where you attend: .....

Do you or have you previously served in a church or held office in a church?  
Please give details: .....

How long have you been thinking about becoming a Reader? .....

Please state briefly your reasons for desiring to become a Reader in the Church of Ireland: .....

In regard to selection for training the following necessary Reader characteristics have been identified:

### SPIRITUALITY

A disciplined devotional life which includes prayer and scripture reading.

### THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

A willingness to engage with scripture, tradition, faith and experience. A person should have the intellectual ability to undertake theological study.

### PASTORAL SENSITIVITY

A compassion for people and the ability to be able to relate to people. An ability to sustain relationships and openness to others. The support and understanding of family and friends. Rooted in a local context and community.

### LEADERSHIP

To have served in some form of leadership in the local context.

### WORSHIP AND PREACHING

To recognise the strengths and weaknesses of preaching they have experienced. To recognise the importance of word and sacrament.

### WORSHIP AND LITURGY

To have experience of Church of Ireland liturgy and worship. Have participated regularly in Holy Communion and have a disciplined corporate devotional life.

### COMMUNICATING THE FAITH

To reflect upon how they discovered, learnt and came to appropriate faith. To recognise the priority and importance of communicating the faith clearly and consistently in word and deed.

### VOCATION

An awareness of a call to Reader ministry and a recognition of the tension evident in vocation between reluctance and willingness. A willingness to explore this call and seek the discernment of the wider church.