

Application Form

Theological Studies

Please give details of any theological studies completed (especially any St. John's Modules completed).

Your Church

Your Diocese

Bishop's Signature

I would like to undertake the Foundation Access Course. My Diocesan Director is aware of and supports me in making this application

Signature

Name (PLEASE PRINT)

All applications to participate in this course need to be received by the evening of **Friday 28 March** in Church House, Dublin - addressed to **Andrew McNeile, Ministry Project Co-ordinator.**

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.

Commendations

“Christian leadership requires both commitment and character. Without commitment it will lack energy and direction; without character it will be shallow and ineffectual.



In the Theological Institute we are aiming to enable individuals to discover their God-given purpose and to unlock their God-given potential.

I hope that you will allow us to facilitate you in taking your next step in the exciting journey which is Christian faith and discipleship.”

- **The Reverend Dr Maurice Elliott**
Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute



“The discernment of God’s call to ministry asks of us that we open ourselves to the identification of a particular combination of leadership and service in our discipleship. The response to this is a voyage of discovery for those who learn and those who teach.

The combination of Biblical, theological and practical education and reflection offers new pathways of training for lay and ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland.

The intention is to equip those who minister for contemporary mission, confident leadership and compassionate service.”

- **The Right Reverend Michael Jackson**
Bishop of Clogher

For More Information

For more information please visit the Ministry Project website, or contact **Andrew McNeile**, Ministry Project Co-ordinator.

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The
Foundation
Access
Course
Spring 2008



Purpose of the Course

To be a member of Christ’s Church is to know that you are called by God. To be a Christian disciple is best described as desiring to follow the unique shape and purpose of that calling for the duration of your life here on earth. For some, that may mean continuing to live out a Christ-centred witness in the secular world; for others, it can involve pursuing a path towards full-time Christian ministry or perhaps ordination.

As an integral part of the new selection process for training in the Church of Ireland, the Foundation Access Course is designed to enable you to explore your particular calling in Christ. It will run as a modular correspondence course for a full year beginning this April and will cover the key areas of Ministry & Mission, Biblical Studies and Theology & Doctrine. The course will be facilitated by the new Church of Ireland Theological Institute through a network of local tutors and a series of regional training days. It will be assessed by St. John’s College, Nottingham and will commence with an introductory weekend that will both introduce the course and help students discern their Christian vocation. This weekend will be led by Christina Baxter, the Principal of St. John’s College, Nottingham. This will take place in Dublin on April 26th and 27th 2008.

The new course promises to be relevant, engaging, focussed and stimulating. If you are open to God, it will enable you to discover a deeper level of insight for your Christian discipleship as well as a clearer sense of God’s purpose for your life in him.

Who can do the course?

The Foundation Course is open to anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and who is keen in particular to test the issue of Christian calling.

Permission to offer oneself as a candidate for selection into ordained ministry is now conditional upon successful completion of this foundation year. The programme itself is therefore designed as a preparatory step towards beginning the new Master of Ministry degree. If that would be your intention, a means of psychological assessment will also be incorporated into the process before nomination by your sponsoring Bishop to the Selection School.

Cost

The Cost of the course will be €500. This represents about 30% of the cost, the rest being shared between other parts of the church. We are keen for all to be freely able to test their vocation – and if this is an issue please discuss this with your Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Course Outline

Introductory Weekend - ‘Fit for the Purpose’

April 26 - 27, 2008, Location to be confirmed.
Led by Christina Baxter, Principal of St. John’s College, Nottingham.
Weekend to assist in Vocation Discernment and to introduce the course.

Module One – ‘Ministry and Mission in the Local Church’

The aim of this module is to introduce students to a theology of Christian ministry, and within this framework of theology to help them consider both the mission strategy of the Church today and their own place within it
Module at Level C (Certificate) – equivalent to 1st year undergraduate

Module Two – ‘Introduction to Biblical Studies’

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the background and content of the Old and New Testament documents, to the critical questions raised by them, and to their significance today.
Module at Level I (Intermediate) – equivalent to 2nd year undergraduate

Module Three – ‘Exploring the Matrix of Christian Theology

The aim of this module is to enable students, in the light of their cultural context, to critically evaluate the Christian theological tradition and to creatively respond to contemporary challenges
Module at Level H (Honours) – equivalent to 3rd year undergraduate

Regional Weekends

There will be two regional weekends during the course. These will allow for theological reflection on practical elements which are intrinsic to the new course and are designed to assist students in their studies. At one of these weekends the psychological assessment will be done, a helpful tool for all and a requirement for those wishing to consider ordination.

Selection School

This will take place in the Spring of 2009 for admission to the Masters In Ministry in September 2009. Candidates who have successfully completed the Foundation Course and who have been put forward by their Bishop will participate in a variety of tasks and interviews. Candidates who are selected may then begin their studies in the autumn, subject to availability of places.

More details about the course and latest information can be found on the ministry project website, www.ministry.ie

Application Form

Name

Address

Telephone (Landline)

Telephone (Mobile)

Email Address

Education Experience

List all schools and colleges attended.

Education Qualifications

List all qualifications obtained