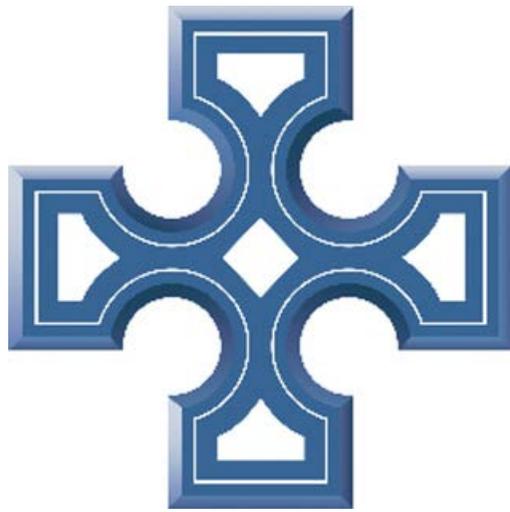


***OLM AND DIOCESAN READER STUDENTS***



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**OPEN LEARNING COURSES**  
**IN**  
**THEOLOGY AND REFLECTIVE PRACTICE**

**2021-22**

Christian Spirituality

Christian Theology

Pastoral Skills

Worship and Preaching 2

Leadership and Ministry

Teamwork and Self-Understanding

The above courses are Open Learning courses provided in association with Queen's University Open Learning Centre and are undertaken in partnership with the Methodist Church in Ireland. They are coordinated through Edgehill College, Belfast.

## ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

- It is an **ordained** ministry – OLMs are deacons and priests in the fullest sense of the word. A priest is a priest and an OLM is not in any way a second class ordained minister. They have a different role but their orders are second to none.
- It is a **local** ministry – limited to the parish/group of parishes, rural deanery or archdeaconry. However, 'local' may be defined in that context. Hence the selection is for a diocese by a diocese and ministry is subject to the bishop's licence for a particular locality. Local is not a diminutive term – local ministry is about valuing the locality and empowering the local congregation.
- It is a **self-supporting** ministry – transfer to any form of stipendiary or what is known as non-stipendiary ministry is not possible without attending a Selection Conference and completion of full ministerial training.
- It is a **supervised** ministry – an OLM is always supervised by a stipendiary priest. He/she may have pastoral and liturgical oversight of a parish and be the go-to priest but an overseeing rector/rural dean/archdeacon should always be responsible for administration and chairs the select vestry.
- It is a **recognised** ministry. It is a particular ministry recognised by the Church and for which training has been undertaken and ongoing support is required.
- It is a **collaborative** or team or companion ministry. An OLM is always part of a team of clergy and lay people there to facilitate a 'healthy church'. The OLM should always see that an essential part of his/her role is to support and work with the stipendiary priest.
- It is **missional** – not simply about filling gaps but intended to expand the missional outreach of the local Church community.

## **DIOCESAN READER MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

Diocesan Readers are lay people who, following the call of God, are trained and licensed by Diocesan Bishops to teach the faith and enable mission.

Diocesan Readers are uniquely equipped to encourage Christians to live out their faith wherever they spend their time. As people who daily move between the worlds of work, home, social networks and church they teach the faith in their words and deeds.

The liturgical roles which Diocesan Readers exercise include preaching sermons, conducting services, reading the bible in services, leading prayers/intercessions, exercising a teaching ministry, and, if specifically authorised, administering the cup at holy communion services.

This ministry involves working together with clergy, churchwardens and other church members. Readers may have a significant pastoral role, visiting people in their homes, taking communion to the housebound and working in schools and colleges. Readers can be found in parishes, schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, factories and shops, with children and young people, the elderly, housebound and bereaved, and with those preparing for baptism, confirmation and marriage.

In order to be lay theologians and responsibly undertake the privilege and power of preaching, they have a rigorous theological training and ultimately gain the Bishop's license to preach and lead worship on the Bishop's behalf. As such, they are public representatives of the Church of Ireland.

The ministry is under the oversight of the Diocesan Warden of Readers who, together with the Readers' Guild, organises training and events.

## **OLM COURSE EXEMPTIONS**

Up to four course exemptions have been awarded. A masters degree in a related subject earned four exemptions and a primary degree three. For those who have completed the Foundation Course through CITI or either of the current 'reader courses', two exemptions have been granted. Evidence of a validated course taken with a higher education institute normally provided one exemption. Degrees in unrelated subjects did not lead to exemptions, neither did other unrelated awards or those from non-academic bodies.

## **OLM COURSE COSTS**

OLM Course Costs are borne, in the first instance, by the individual student's diocese. A diocese may then invoice the student for some or all of the costs.

## **BISHOPS' STUDY WEEKEND**

Subject to potential Coronavirus restrictions, there will be a Bishops' Study Weekend in CITI from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022 for OLM students. The topic will be the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and will be led by:

**Rt Revd Michael Burrows** MA, MLitt, Prof DipTh is the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

**Rt Revd Paul Colton** BCL, DipTh, MPhil, LL.M, PhD is the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Costs for the Bishops' Study Weekend will be paid by the respective bishops.

## **OLM COURSE CERTIFICATE**

A Certificate in Theology and Reflective Practice for successful completion of twelve courses or equivalent will be awarded.

## **OLM CO-ORDINATOR**

Revd Ken Rue is the part-time Ordained Local Ministry Co-ordinator for the Church of Ireland. His email is [kenrue@gmail.com](mailto:kenrue@gmail.com). Questions relating to OLM processes and exemptions should be directed to him. Insofar as is practicable, all email correspondence will be addressed to those email addresses which have been supplied to the OLM Co-ordinator.

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

### **Email**

Students are urged to check their email regularly and to keep their login and password information confidential.

### **Safeguarding Trust and Security Clearance**

All adults and children have a fundamental right to be respected, nurtured, cared for and protected from harm or the risk of harm. “These basic rights are embedded in both our gospel values and within international and domestic laws” (Adult Safeguarding Policy Church of Ireland).

The Church of Ireland is deeply committed to its duty of care to all children and vulnerable adults sharing its ministry and protecting them from all forms of harm and abuse.

Safeguarding in the Church of Ireland is about protecting children and adults at risk in the context of church life which means

1. Being Alert to their safety and care
2. Recognising concerns about their welfare and seeking support for them
3. Taking action when we are worried
4. Hearing their voices and thoughts about their own lives

For this reason, all incoming students must undergo Clearance and vetting procedures including the requirements of the Garda and Access NI. This is an in-depth process which requires references and extensive security checks. All students must also undertake training in the Safeguarding Trust programme and Adult Safeguarding or any other security requirements or training which may be requested.

## **OLM STUDENT ORDINANDS**

### **September 2020 Intake**

James Crockett	Down and Dromore
James Cunningham	Down and Dromore
Barbara Irrgang-Buckley	Limerick and Killaloe
Peter McCausland	Connor
Peter Meenagh	Connor
Ross Munro	Down and Dromore
Claire Thompson	Connor

## **DIOCESAN READERS IN TRAINING**

### **September 2020 Intake**

Jackie Carson	Armagh
David Carleton	Armagh
Rhonda Dempsey	Armagh
Simon Woodworth	Cork, Cloyne and Ross

### **September 2021 Intake**

Peter Kirch	Connor
Michael Ogilby	Connor
Dee Huddleston	Dublin & Glendalough
Thabi Madide	Dublin & Glendalough
Jeanne Salter	Dublin & Glendalough
Mandy Swanwick	Dublin & Glendalough

The Trainee Diocesan Readers will be taking the Worship and Preaching 2 course in 2021-22 and the September 2021 Intake will be taking the Worship and Preaching 1 course in 2022-23.

## TEAMWORK AND SELF-UNDERSTANDING 2021-22 COURSE

### **Course Leader:**

**Ms Laurie Randall** B.A., M.A. is a member of the Connor Diocese Pastoral Support for Clergy team and the Senior Development Officer of Mediation Northern Ireland.

As a result of the Coronavirus Emergency, the Teamwork and Self-Understanding course which should have taken place in 2019-20 was held over. It will be delivered in Spring 2022 to the OLM September 2019 intake alongside the 2020 intake as well as the Methodist Ordained Ministry Formation students.

### **September 2019 Intake**

John Addy	Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh
Patrick Delaney	Tuam, Killala and Achonry
Richard Dring	Cork, Cloyne and Ross
Jim Fleming	Down and Dromore
Stephen Green	Connor
Yvonne Hutchinson	Meath and Kildare
Ger James	Cashel, Ferns and Ossory
Ciaran Kavanagh	Cashel, Ferns and Ossory
Marion Keating	Meath and Kildare
David Murphy	Armagh
Brendan O'Loan	Connor
Michael O'Meara	Cashel, Ferns and Ossory
Carole Pound	Cork, Cloyne and Ross
Xante Pratt	Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh
Pat Ryan	Meath and Kildare
Glenn Thompson	Connor
Malcolm Young	Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh

## INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

Without cultivating one's own spiritual life, it will be difficult for an ordained cleric or a diocesan reader to assist others in theirs. It will therefore be important that students develop spiritual habits during their period of study which will sustain them in ministry. The demands of study should not be allowed to interfere with growth in spiritual life.

In his book, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, Richard Foster identified the following Spiritual Disciplines:

- The Inward Disciplines: *Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study*
- The Outward Disciplines: *Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service*
- The Corporate Disciplines: *Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration*

Key Church of Ireland resources for daily devotional times are the Book of Common Prayer's Services of Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline and Late Evening Office. The associated daily readings may be found in the annual booklet *Sunday and Weekday Readings* which is available in printed form or on the Church of Ireland website at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/lectionary/sunday-weekday-lectionary-pdf>

The basic disciplines of prayer and the reading of Scripture on a daily basis help to sustain ordained and lay ministry.