



ENDORSEMENTS

How do I apply?

To apply for the programme, request an application form by emailing CCTP@theologicalinstitute.ie or calling (+353) 1 4923506.

To learn more visit: www.theologicalinstitute.ie/CertificateinChristianTheologyandPractice

How much does it cost?

The full Certificate programme costs €2,100. This fee includes TCD registration, library access and meals over four study weekends in Braemor Park, Dublin (one of these is the 'Fit for the Purpose' Retreat Weekend). Accommodation can only be guaranteed for those who are in the pre-selection group. Other accommodation can be sourced locally although the cost of this is not included in the fee quoted. Diocesan Reader costs are agreed with the respective Dioceses.

Potential ordinands and Diocesan Reader candidates are required to participate in the full programme. Adult Discipleship students are also able to undertake the full accredited programme. If you are doing the programme for your own personal enrichment, you can elect to take only the 'Fit for the Purpose' Retreat Weekend or specific modules of your choosing. In this case relevant costs are available on request.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

'We were encouraged to explore a broad range of themes and church traditions by the tutors, and we were held in prayer by our sisters and brothers in Christ.'

Christopher West (CITI Foundation Course and MTh 2019)

'The early mornings to CITI were worth it - apart from the lovely tray-bakes, I made many friends, and had the space and time to study in a friendly, informative, and supportive learning environment This course will enhance and empower me to better to serve my Lord and Saviour in Church and in the Diocese.'

Marion Wilcox (Lay Reader Training 2020)

'What I cherish most from the course was the confidence it gave me that my questions were valid, and the amazing community of colleagues and tutors that I found myself part of.'

Stuart Reid (CITI Foundation Course and MTh 2017)

'It pushed me to explore my own faith and calling as well as challenged me academically. It was wonderful to be part of a supportive community of learners.'

Lisa Rae Currie (Lay Reader Training 2020)

'The study days at CITI gave me space, opportunity and structure to examine my sense of vocation. There was support to engage academically and there were prayerful times of devotion to engage spirituality. The whole experience encouraged me to be open to God's guidance and to step out in faith.'

Abigail Sines (CITI Foundation Course and MTh 2014)



Certificate in Christian Theology & Practice





COURSE CONTENT

Have you ever sat in church and thought to yourself,

'I would really like to find out more about the Christian faith'? Have you ever been in conversation with someone about matters of belief and wished that you had a better skillset to explain your own relationship with God? Do you sometimes read the Bible and come away with a longing to have greater understanding of both its heritage and its message? Are you interested to discover a stronger sense of rootedness in God through a deeper appreciation of prayer and helpful spiritual practices? Do you ever find yourself wrestling with some of the complexities and more puzzling aspects of contemporary life? If you can identify with any of these questions, then the 'Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice' (CCTP) could be exactly what you need.

This course has been carefully constructed as a partnership between the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and the School of Religion in Trinity College, Dublin, and aims to provide the tools for a broad range of people to develop their own theological foundations, their own personal discipleship and their own readiness to serve others. Lasting for one year, the programme covers biblical studies, liturgy, spirituality and theological thinking. It has been designed to allow for either full participation in all six modules, leading to an accredited award from Trinity College, or by auditing individual modules according to particular areas of interest. The course is delivered as a blended learning opportunity which mixes online teaching with face-to-face classroom contact, and thus it promises not only a rich learning experience but also a true sense of journeying with others.

The CCTP comprises an introductory weekend, and six modules taught at certificate and diploma level over six further weekends. It is directed towards candidates seeking to deepen their exploration of discipleship, to those training as Lay Readers, and to those seeking ordination. All candidates for ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland, with the exception of those training for Ordained Local Ministry, must complete the CCTP.

The 'Fit for the Purpose' Retreat Weekend which inaugurates the programme takes place in the November before the modules commence. It combines taught sessions and discussion groups with times of reflection and worship, and explores the fullness of Christian vocation in all its dimensions. This begins with our vocation as human beings, made in the image of God, and called into life by God; continues as we follow the path of discipleship; and finds a particular focus in the life of the Church as it responds to the call to be Christ's body in the world. For some, it may be expressed in a further journey to ordained and lay ministries.

Over weekends in January and March, students undertake modules introducing the Creeds and the Old Testament. In May and June, these are followed by modules on the New Testament and on foundations for Public Worship. A module on Theological Thinking is taught over the September and November weekends, together with an elective module. This allows a choice of Theological Reasoning and Critical Thinking, or Spirituality and Self-Understanding.

Module Title	Months Taught (2 weekends)
Encountering the Old Testament	Jan & March
Introduction to the Creeds	Jan & March
Preparing to Lead Public Worship	May & June
Encountering the New Testament	May & June
Development of Theological Thinking	Sept & Nov
Theological Reasoning & Critical Thinking [Elective] or	Sept & Nov
Spirituality & Self-Understanding [Elective]	Sept & Nov

The programme is designed to allow participants to develop a grasp of theological concepts, and to learn critical and reflective approaches to subjects which they will have experienced in practical ways in worship and private devotional discipline. In addition to classroom contact, there will be further online engagement, both with tutors and in self-study exercises, through web-based content.

A variety of methods of assessment, from short creative exercises, to longer pieces of writing, to practical-reflective tasks, is used in each module. This accommodates different learning styles and creates an environment in which students are able to flourish.