



## ✠ ENDORSEMENTS

### How do I apply?

To apply for the programme, request an application form by emailing [CCTP@theologicalinstitute.ie](mailto:CCTP@theologicalinstitute.ie) or by clicking on the apply option on the website (detailed below).

To learn more visit: [www.theologicalinstitute.ie](http://www.theologicalinstitute.ie) and under the Exploring Ministry tab select Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice (CCTP). Alternatively, telephone (+353) 1 4923506.

### How much does it cost?

The full certificate programme costs €2,380. This fee includes TCD registration, library access and all meals. Accommodation at Braemor Park will be offered on a bi-monthly basis to the various cohorts participating in the programme (further information will be included in correspondence from CITI). Other accommodation can be sourced locally although this cost is not included in the fee quoted. Pre-ordination, Diocesan Reader and OLM costs are agreed with respective Dioceses.

Adult Faith Formation please contact Lynda Levis at [lyndalevis@theologicalinstitute.ie](mailto:lyndalevis@theologicalinstitute.ie)

The full programme is necessary for potential ordinands, Ordained Local Ministry candidates and those engaged in Diocesan Reader Training. Those exploring Adult Faith Formation are also welcome to take 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 costs are available upon request.

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

*"The CCTP does what it says on the tin - and then some. This is a marvelous rollercoaster of a ride for the student through the anchors of our Christian faith, where lecturers were engaged, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. As a result, all of our group were enriched, beyond compare. This programme was both life affirming and God affirming in equal measure. A truly wonderful and unique experience. Thank you to everyone at CITI who made it all happen."*

- John Deane-O'Keeffe (2021)

*"It was a great honour to be in the first cohort of students to take the CCTP. Despite the challenges of Covid, technology was used to full advantage to deliver the Course in a professional and enjoyable manner. This wonderful Course, in a superbly structured and holistic manner offers great insight into the scriptures, the creeds, personal spiritual development, and public worship. At any age or from any faith background, it provides new insights, whether the Course is for the participant an end in itself or the firm foundation for a journey in ministry."*

- Dr Cornelius Power (2021)

*"Having the opportunity to be involved in this course has been a wonderful experience for me. It has enriched and challenged me to look again more deeply at what I believe and how I express my faith in every aspect of life. I really enjoyed delving into the scriptures and learning the background and history of both the Old and New Testament. It was also very interesting to learn about the Creeds and how important these are to our worship. This course has brought an added depth to my Christian walk and has given me the confidence for further study and development. and I would highly recommend it to others."*

- Dee Huddleston (2021)

*"A standard of excellence permeates the CCTP. From the diverse and rich content of the modules to the individual support offered to participants throughout, the course offers abundant inspiration and challenge. As I begin my journey as a Diocesan Lay Reader, I am appreciative of the quality of the lectures and the invaluable range of ideas and resources to which we were exposed. For me the CCTP is a springboard for lifelong learning and growth in my faith."*

- Jeanne Salter (2021)



## 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, Theology and Peace Studies in Trinity College Dublin. It 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 (both stipendiary and 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] <b>or</b>	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.