



"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

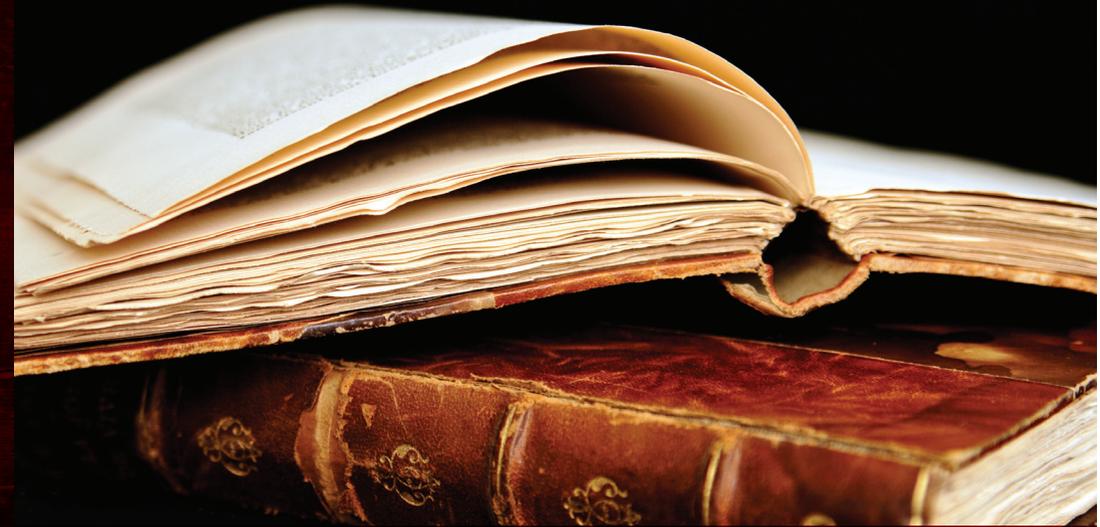


"Diocesan Readers make an invaluable contribution to ministry in the Church of Ireland. Many parishes could not continue to offer weekly worship without the

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

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Readers'
Course

Spring 2014

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 Professional Certificate in Ministry through the University of Chester.

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

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN MINISTRY

Module 1 - **Ministry and Mission** - March 2014 - October 2014

Module 2 - **Biblical Studies** - October 2014 - June 2015

Module 3 - **Matrix of Christian Belief** - June 2015 - March 2016

These modules will be taught by a combination of distance learning and through contact hours in the Day Conferences.

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

28th February - 2nd March 2014

DAY CONFERENCES

7th June 2014

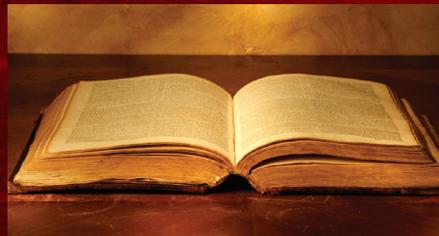
11th October 2014

7th February 2015

6th June 2015

10th October 2015

6th February 2016



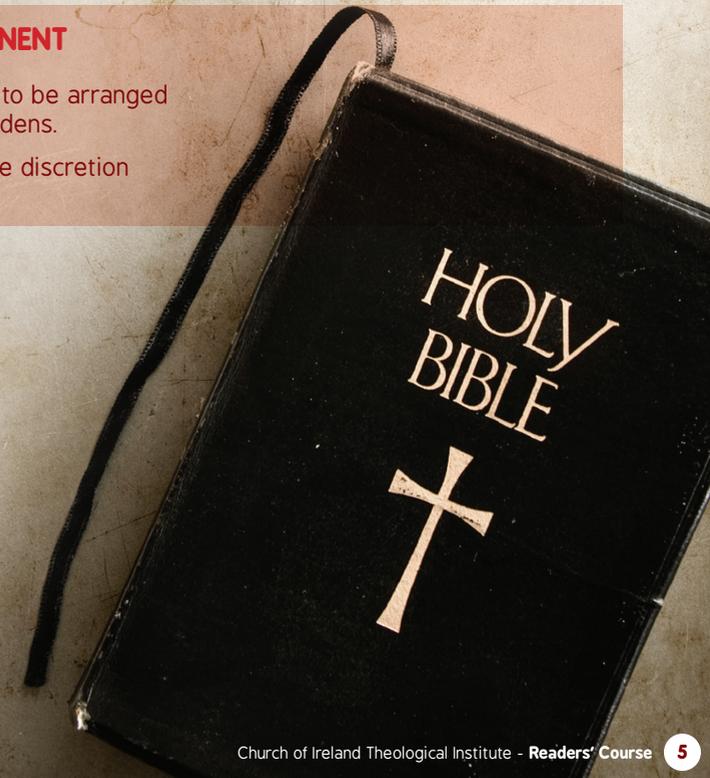
TEMPLATE FOR THE 6 DAY CONFERENCES:

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.